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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 17, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON-LEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOEHNER. I welcome my colleagues to St. Patrick's Day and I hope everyone has a happy one.

Madam Speaker, we are 2 months into this Congress, and Washington has done nothing to ease the economic challenges facing middle class families and small businesses.

We've watched the administration approve another \$350 billion for more bailouts for the financial industry, and we've watched passage of a trillion-dollar "stimulus" bill, and then we've

watched the passage of a \$410 billion omnibus bill loaded with some 9,000 unscrutinized earmarks.

Soon we are going to debate the President's budget, a budget which spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much from our kids and our grandkids. This budget raises taxes on everyone, from middle class families to small businesses, to seniors and to schools. It even punishes anyone who would have the audacity to flip on a light switch thanks to a brand new \$646 billion energy tax. This means less money in the family budget and more jobs being shipped overseas.

The American people are looking for real solutions that will help create jobs, rebuild savings, and create more investment in our economy. And in spite of what some disingenuous political operatives are saying, Republicans are offering better solutions.

So far this year, we've presented clear, superior alternatives to Washington Democrats' flawed proposals. We've asked the administration for an exit strategy to get the government back out of the private sector and get taxpayers off the hook for more billions in handouts to the financial sector. Our whip, ERIC CANTOR, and I personally delivered to the President an economic recovery plan that would create twice as many jobs as the Democrats' plan at half the cost. And we fought for a spending freeze as the majority fought for their bloated \$410 billion omnibus spending bill.

Listen, the American people are fed up with what they're seeing here in Washington. Don't they deserve to keep more of what they earn as we try to get this economy back on track? Don't they deserve better solutions than the spending, taxing, and borrowing that they're seeing out of this Congress?

Republicans are offering better solutions, and we hope the majority will join us.

THE CONTINUED NEED FOR HEALTH REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I would like to just take this opportunity to wish all of my colleagues and the American people, particularly my constituents, a happy St. Patrick's Day.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that continues to be a top priority for American families and businesses, one that is fundamentally intertwined with the strength of our Nation's economy and the government's long-term fiscal sustainability. I'm speaking, of course, about the need for health care reform.

Health care costs in the United States are rising at an alarming rate. Yet despite the fact that we spend more per capita on health care than any other industrialized country, we produce some of the worst outcomes by a number of important health measures. Furthermore, the U.S. remains the only developed nation that does not guarantee health coverage as a right to its citizens.

Recent estimates indicate that over 45 million Americans lack health insurance, leaving one in six without access to proper medical care. Even more shocking is that over 80 percent of the uninsured come from working families. Health care costs are imposing an increasing burden on families and placing employers at a further competitive disadvantage in our global economy.

Now, as we seek to unfurl the complex economic challenges facing our country, it remains abundantly clear that our success will not only depend on our ability to stem housing foreclosures and create new jobs; it will also depend on our will to change a system of health care that is fundamentally flawed and under tremendous strain.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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According to Dr. Peter Orszag, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in his recent testimony before the Housing Budget Committee on which I sit, "the single most important step we could take to put this Nation back on a path to fiscal responsibility is to address rising health care costs." He further stated that "health care is the key to our fiscal future. We cannot afford inaction."

I could not agree more, Madam Speaker. But this is not just an economic or a fiscal imperative; it is also a moral one. For many years I have continually heard from Rhode Islanders who are struggling to pay their share of health care premiums, as well as from businesses that can no longer afford to operate under the existing system. Those constituents who are fortunate to have access to health insurance are struggling in the face of increasingly daunting costs, while many of them are afraid, of course, that they will lose the benefit altogether.

Now, this cannot simply continue any longer, and I am very pleased that within the last 2 months, this Congress and President Obama have already taken extraordinary steps to begin addressing these challenges by expanding coverage and investing in innovative technologies that will ensure better treatments and outcomes for the future.

On February 4 Congress passed and the President enacted a bill to provide health coverage to 11 million low-income children through SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which I was proud to support. Also included in the Recovery Act were a number of important measures to provide additional funding to State Medicaid programs, extend health benefits to the unemployed, and ensure proper investment into health information technology so that we can achieve higher quality care with greater efficiency.

As recently as last week, President Obama signed an executive order lifting the ban on Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, an act, I believe, will fundamentally alter the course of science and medicine in the same manner as did the discovery of the first vaccine or X-rays or other significant medical discoveries.

We have made amazing strides in a short period of time, but there is obviously so much more work to be done. I believe it is incumbent upon us, as policymakers, to offer a new vision for health care in America, one that contains costs, improves quality, increases efficiency, promotes wellness, guarantees universal coverage, and encourages investment in treatments and cures for the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress, the President, health care providers, community advocates, business leaders, families, and patients across the country to find real solutions that permanently address the longstanding need to health reform in America.

HONK IF YOU'RE PAYING MY MORTGAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I have been asked to present more than 6,000 postcards that were generated by the Armstrong and Getty radio show to protest policies that can best be described by the new bumper sticker "Honk if You're Paying My Mortgage" or today's reprise "Honk if You're Paying AIG's Bonuses."

These postcards represent the first stirring of the public against some of the excesses that we are seeing out of this administration on the mortgage issue.

Rick Santelli of CNBC struck a nerve last month when he asked, "How many of you want to pay your neighbor's mortgage who has an extra bathroom and can't pay their bills?" Jack Armstrong and Joe Getty, who host the popular radio talk show in Northern California, asked the same question of their listeners. And here's their response:

On each of these thousands of postcards is the story of a responsible family struggling to make ends meet in the worst recession in a generation, families who are meeting their obligations, who are staying current with their mortgages, even though many of them are upside down on their home values and owe more than their home is worth. And they're watching as this government says to borrowers who lied on their applications, who put no money down and accepted teaser rates, and who withdrew all of the equity of their home to pay for stuff, don't worry, we'll force your neighbor to pay your mortgage.

They're watching as this government says to lenders like AIG who knowingly made loans to people they knew couldn't afford them, who made millions creating the housing bubble, don't worry, we'll cover your million dollar bonuses with taxpayer money.

But the families who sent in these postcards keep making their payments, many eating into their savings, foregoing vacations, postponing retirements, turning down consumer purchases because they stand by their word. These are the families that turned down the opportunity to flip that house, to make that quick fortune, to cash in on their equity for a second home or a boat they couldn't afford. They are the 92 percent of borrowers who are making their mortgage payments, despite all of the incentives that this administration's offering them to stop. And these postcards are eloquent testimony to their resentment at being required to bail out the banks and the borrowers who created the housing bubble, who caused the credit collapse, and who now are being subsidized, bailed out, and lavished with multi-million dollar bonuses paid for with our tax money.

Joe Getty asked the question yesterday, "What has happened to the words 'sadder but wiser'? What has happened to that American tradition that you make your own decisions, good or bad, and then you live with those decisions?"

The President tells us that if your neighbor's home is on fire, you don't quibble over who pays for the water. And that's true. But as Jack Armstrong pointed out, if my neighbor burns down his house by shooting off Roman candles in his living room, I'll be darned if I'm going to pay for him to rebuild it.

Armstrong and Getty, Rick Santelli, and others are speaking for the vast silent majority of Americans who pay their bills, who honor their commitments, and who make this country run.

The President recently said that we are all to blame. Well, no, we not all to blame. Those families who passed up the get-rich-quick real estate seminars and turned down the loans they couldn't afford or settled for a smaller home or who rented because that's what they could afford, they're not to blame, and they shouldn't be left holding the bag.

Ninety-two percent of Americans are making their mortgage payments not only because it's the right thing to do, but because they know that the sooner the market corrects itself, the sooner our homes will begin to appreciate once again.

By prolonging the real estate correction, by propping up bad loans, by undermining responsible homeowners, and by rewarding the smartest guys in the room who created this catastrophe with taxpayer-paid bonuses, this government is extending the agony and postponing the day when the market will bottom out and home buyers can safely re-enter the housing market.

Madam Speaker, I take great hope from the public's response to Armstrong and Getty's invitation to protest the mortgage bailouts. It means that the American spirit is not dead, that there are still millions of Americans who believe in individual responsibility and integrity. And even if such people are in short supply in Washington today, they still comprise the vast majority of our Nation, and that great silent majority is fast tiring of remaining silent.

CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the President's nominee for Commerce Secretary will have his confirmation hearing in the Senate.

Gary Locke, the former Governor of Washington State, is the third nominee for this Cabinet position. As you recall, the second nominee, Senator JUDD GREGG, withdrew his name from consideration.

Senator GREGG objected to the President's intention to move control of the Census Bureau from the Commerce Department into the White House. This unprecedented move to politicize the 2010 Decennial Census has met with strong opposition from across the political spectrum. The Obama administration has since backtracked and attempted to downplay its role regarding the census. To his credit, Governor Locke has expressed his intention to not cede control of the 2010 census to the White House should he be confirmed.

I have encouraged our colleagues in the Senate Commerce Committee to ask Governor Locke several important questions at tomorrow's hearing, two of which are: What would he consider to be an inappropriate political interference from the White House regarding the census, and how would he respond to attempts from the White House to exert political influence over the conduct of the census?

□ 1045

I suspect that Governor Locke's responses to these questions will determine his fate in the Senate.

But there is a second and equally important point of contention and controversy over the census. The statistical adjustment of census data is prohibited by Federal law. However, there are some partisans who refuse to give up the cause of data manipulation. They want to manipulate the census results for political gain, for their own political gain, and, in the process, undermine the integrity of the country's entire statistical system.

I hope that our colleagues in the Senate will question Governor Locke about his thoughts regarding statistical adjustment. Governor Locke expressed his willingness to use adjustment as an "accuracy check." This comment must be expanded upon for members of the Senate Commerce Committee and all interested parties. Republicans and Democrats alike must truly guard the integrity of the constitutionally-mandated census in the United States. The appropriate allocation of Federal funds depend upon an accurate census.

My colleagues and I on the Census Subcommittee, of which I am the ranking member, are working to ensure that the 2010 Decennial Census is apolitical, fair and accurate. Governor Locke's confirmation should rest upon whether he shares this goal; a census free of White House political pressure and partisan influence and free of manipulation, and data manipulation in particular.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

PRESENTING A PROPER BUDGET FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, just a few moments ago the President of the United States made a press statement in which he outlined parts of his budget and then challenged the Republicans, or those who might oppose his budget, to come up with alternatives. Well, let me say in the spirit of St. Patrick, as a great descendant of the Irish aisle, I accept that challenge. I accept that challenge on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, but also on behalf of my constituents.

When I was home this weekend, I heard from many of them. In fact, I continued to hear from them on the plane ride back from Sacramento here to Dulles Airport. They said, please tell the President this: Let's get our priorities straight. Fix the financial system first. Get the economy working right. Then we will talk about your other ideas.

So I would say to the President, the better idea that I have from my constituents back home is set your sights on righting the financial institutions in America.

Now, what we have heard from the President by and large is well, it is somebody else's fault. It was the fault of the previous administration. And there may be some truth to that. But let's remember, for instance, with AIG it was Treasury Secretary Geithner who negotiated that deal with AIG. It was this administration that allowed something like \$30 billion to go to AIG just recently without any strings attached.

Let's focus on the situation we have with respect to our financial institutions first. The President tells us we have to do all these other things first. Well, as Warren Buffett said the other day, he doesn't think Franklin Delano Roosevelt said on the day after Pearl Harbor, "What a great opportunity for us to expand government. We shouldn't let this crisis be wasted."

Let's not listen to some around the President who say that a crisis like this gives us a great opportunity to do all of the things we have wanted to do with respect to government. Let's get down to the basics.

So let's talk about the budget that the President has presented to us. It increases spending by \$1 trillion over the next decade. It includes an additional \$250 billion placeholder for another financial bailout. It likely leads to a 12 percent increase in discretionary spending. It permanently expands, makes larger, the Federal Government by nearly 3 percent of the gross domestic product over pre-recession levels. In other words, the answer to big government and big spending and big taxing and big borrowing is more big government, big spending, big taxes and big borrowing.

It raises taxes on all Americans by \$1.4 trillion over the next decade. It raises taxes on 3.2 million taxpayers by an average of \$300,000 over the next decade.

The President said look, he is going to raise taxes on the rich, but 95 percent of Americans are going to get a better deal. Well, guess what? His cap-and-trade plan, if adopted, is a cap-and-tax plan. He calls it cap-and-trade. It actually is cap-and-tax, because it increases the cost of anything basically produced by fossil fuels in America. That means your air conditioning, that means your heating, that means your transportation. That means it is going to be placed into the cost of food being developed, of food being delivered to us. It is going to wipe out any suggested tax relief that the average family gets, and more. And the average family uses these things as a higher percentage of these income than do the rich, therefore they will be disproportionately impacted.

So, Madam Speaker, let's look at what the President has presented. I love his melodious tones as he explains to us he is not for more spending, he is not for more taxes, he is not for more borrowing, he is not for expansion of entitlement programs. But his budget does precisely all of those things. It is a net increase in taxes on every American. It is an increase in spending. It is an increase in borrowing on my children and my grandchildren and everyone's children and grandchildren. It is the greatest transfer of wealth from one generation to another in the history of the United States.

Madam Speaker, you don't have to dislike a President of the United States personally, you don't have to dislike what he is trying to do, to dislike his policies, particularly if they undercut the very promises he is making, if they undercut the very things he says we want to do. We stand ready to join him. We stand ready to join him in meeting the goals that he sets up. But, Madam Speaker, this budget taxes too much, spends too much, borrows too much. It is in fact a repudiation of the very goals he has established.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND TAXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I also come down to the floor to talk about the President's budget, and I am going to focus on the issue of taxing. There is one provision in the tax increase of the President's budget that is very detrimental to our country and to our society, and that is the carbon tax aspect of this. Imagine paying more for every piece of energy that you use. That is what this cap-and-trade, cap-and-tax plan will do.

I have seen the direct result of placing taxes and additional regulatory burdens on my congressional district in

Southern Illinois. I always tell the story about the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act where because of Federal regulation, in this one case, in this one case, 1,200 miners lost their jobs.

I was told by someone who was the business manager for the United Mine Workers of America in Southern Illinois that during 1990 he was responsible for 14,000 mine workers in Southern Illinois. After the amendments were passed, he then was reorganized into a three-State region to only bargain for 4,000 United Mine workers. 10,000 mine workers' jobs were lost.

That was just in the cap-and-trade clean air amendments 1990s, where we had technology to make the transformation. This carbon dioxide cap-and-tax provision, we do not have the technology available today to effect this change.

So this is what happened. This is actually a picture of mine workers who lost their jobs. This is the mine I was talking about, Peabody No. 10 in Kincaid, Illinois. The interesting thing about this mine, it is very, very efficient in that the mine was right across the street from the power plant, so you saved on the transportation costs, whether that be the trucks or that would be the rail applications. There was a little conveyor belt going across the road to the power plant. This mine was closed down. These miners lost their jobs.

Now, under the new regime of the President's bill that taxes too much, he proposes additional taxation of \$686 billion through a carbon tax. This carbon tax will be passed on to everybody who uses fossil fuels in America.

You might say, I don't want to use fossil fuels. It is like the story where the individual says I don't like coal, I don't like nuclear power, I don't like hydroelectric. I like electricity. The problem with this is 50 percent of all electricity, even the electricity that lights this Chamber, is produced by coal-based electricity generation. The power plant just down the road two blocks from here is a coal-fired power plant. Fifty percent.

If you put additional taxation on that fossil fuel, that cost will be passed on to the individuals and the consumers. This is the worst time to really attack our economy through additional taxation, because of the economic slowdown, the economic recession, the competitive nature of the world. If we not only put a challenge to our use of fossil fuels in this country, not only coal, natural gas as a fossil fuel, gasoline as a fossil fuel, estimations of the last cap-and-trade bills are 50 cents additional to the cost of a gallon of gas.

Where does that money go to when we collect it? There is an old story. When the bank robbers rob a bank and they get away to their hideaway and they put the loot on the table, what happens? That is when you have the fights break out. That is when one bad

guy shoots the other bad guy and says, I am taking all the money for myself.

What this cap-and-tax regime will do will allow bureaucrats, it will allow us in Washington, to decide how that money is going to be split up, and it will be folks here making that determination. Why do you think so many people are at the table? They are at the table because they want part of your tax dollars that you are going to pay through higher rates to us and they want to get benefited.

You can look across all the regimes that are at the table. They are at the table because they want part of that revenue stream. What this revenue stream will do is not only kill the fossil fuel of this industry, which is hundreds of thousands of jobs and low-cost power, it will make us not competitive with the developing nations who are using coal and having low cost power.

MOVING FORWARD TO A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, last week I had two very exciting meetings with people who have some insights about how we can move forward to use a new energy future to really revive our economy, and I thought I would take a couple of moments to advise my colleagues about these meetings. I thought they would be interested in them.

First, I met some absolutely brilliant people up in Boston area at the MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Energy Club. This is a club of graduate and post-graduate students who have come together to organize themselves to try to promote ideas about how to build a new, clean energy future for the country.

These are brilliant people, post-graduates in chemistry, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering. These are really some of the creme de la creme of our young geniuses coming up who can help build our new economy. It was fascinating to me, because these were people who were tremendously optimistic even in these tough times about the ability to grow the U.S. economy, if we will get serious about promoting the future of new energy technologies.

□ 1100

I am convinced after meeting these relatively young people that we've got a bright future in our economy if we can unleash these intellectual geniuses. They told me that they were waiting for a signal from Washington, DC, that we were really going to embrace these new technologies; and they told me about some of these new technologies that they're fascinated in. I thought I would share some of them today.

They told me about a technology company called Ramgen, a company out in my State of Washington, that

has an ability to compress carbon dioxide so that someday we might be able to burn coal in a way that carbon dioxide doesn't go into the air but we compress that carbon dioxide and put it under the ground permanently so it doesn't cause global warming. They're waiting for Congress to pass a bill that will essentially direct the economy in that direction. They told me it's very important to have a bill that will create a fund to be able to support the research so that these people at MIT can help develop this and various other technologies. The cap-and-trade bill, which I'll talk about a little later, is a bill that will do just that, to help that technology forward.

We talked about the Ausra Company, a company that just opened the first manufacturing plant in the United States, commercial plant, for concentrated solar energy, so you can concentrate the sun's rays and generate electricity. They are now hiring several hundred people in Nevada, building these new plants, so that we can convert the sun's energy directly to electricity, and they were very excited about that technology.

I met up there the leader of A123 Battery Company. At A123 Battery, they make lithium ion batteries that can power plug-in hybrid cars and ultimately all electric cars using lithium ion. The beauty of this, of course, is that if you use electricity, you don't have to import gasoline from Saudi Arabia, you don't have to wrap yourself around that national security threat, and you can use electricity rather than oil. But they told me they're waiting for a signal from Congress to move toward electricity in our cars. Now we started that in the stimulus bill to help them, but now we need to move forward to have a bill to essentially regulate carbon dioxide so we can have another signal to industry to start moving to electric cars.

We talked about a company called the Sapphire Energy Company. The Sapphire Energy Company just started construction of ponds—and this will sound like science fiction but it's real—ponds where you can grow algae and the algae takes the sun's energy and turns it into lipids and then you essentially press it and you get fuel that you make gasoline out of. So we can use algae to essentially eat carbon dioxide out of our coal-fired plants and then use it to make a liquid automobile fuel that's chemically indistinguishable from gasoline. Pretty exciting company.

We talked about the AltaRock Company. The AltaRock Company is a company, again up in the State of Washington, which is trying to commercialize what we call engineered geothermal, where you can poke a hole down in the Earth, you pump water down there, it collects to a 300-degree temperature, you bring it up, generate steam and make electricity. Again, zero CO₂.

These companies are waiting for a signal from Congress, the cap-and-

trade bill, and we're going to try and get it through this year.

REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 3 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the midst of an enormous amount of national outrage. I sensed it yesterday when I was in Anderson, Indiana, meeting with my constituents, meeting with small business leaders at a forum. Now much in the media today is focused on the frustration over a large business, specifically AIG, that received tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer money and now has been busy paying bonuses with it to the tune of over \$150 million and has been passing out that money to foreign corporations. That outrage is very real and I agree with it. The American people are tired of bailouts. I voted against the Wall Street bailout last fall, defied a President of my own party, because I simply believe we can't borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing America. And it seems that much of the public has now come to the conclusion that this notion that we can bail out every failing business in the country is a deeply flawed notion. But I also heard an enormous amount of outrage in my district yesterday about this administration's budget.

The truth is the more the American people look at the President's budget plan, the more they realize that it spends too much, it taxes too much, and it borrows too much, and we have to do better.

I heard yesterday from a constituent by the name of Ted Fiock, who runs and owns Anderson Tool and Engineering Company. He talked about the increasing cost in his business, saying, "The cost burden is just insane right now. We're not doing well. We're struggling. We're in a survival mode right now." You can imagine his frustration and even, I would perceive, outrage when I explained to him that 50 percent of the Americans who will be paying higher taxes under the President's budget are actually small business owners just like him. The President said it would just affect Americans who make more than \$250,000 a year, but according to the most reasonable estimates, more than 50 percent of the Americans that file taxes over that amount are actually small business owners just like Ted filing as individuals. Raising taxes on small businesses, especially during these difficult economic times, is not a prescription for recovery. It's a prescription for economic decline. I also shared with Ted and others the President's plan, the so-called cap-and-trade energy tax. Under the administration's budget, there would be a new energy tax that could cost every household, let alone every business, up to \$3,128 a year for using electricity, driving a car, relying on energy in any way.

The President's budget simply taxes too much. And as I explain the metes and bounds in this budget today, the outrage about AIG's bonuses, the outrage about bailouts has suddenly met its match. I think the more the American people look at this administration's budget, the more they know we can do better, and we must do better. It's time for this Congress to embrace the principles of fiscal restraint and policies that will get America growing again, and Republicans are prepared to bring those ideas forward.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) for 3 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, a little later today, I will bring another privileged resolution to the floor asking for the Ethics Committee to look into the relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions. This will be the fourth one that has been offered. Each time these have been tabled and we haven't instructed the Ethics Committee to look into this. I hope that that changes.

Several years ago, we had a scandal involving earmarks, the Jack Abramoff scandal. Mr. Abramoff now sits in Federal prison. Some staff members and lobbyists and others also were implicated in that scandal. The leadership at that time was slow to recognize the scandal that was there, and I would say today that the leadership is also slow to recognize what is going on here. There are investigations going on around us. The Department of Justice is investigating—we know this from various press reports—the relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions.

Let me just read a few of the whereas clauses from the resolution that will be introduced later today. This one is a little more specific. The first resolution that was introduced had to do just with earmarks and campaign contributions in general. The second one had to do with earmarks related to the PMA Group. The next one just with earmarks related to the PMA Group for FY09 defense spending. This one has to do specifically with the head of PMA, Mr. Magliocchetti, whom we were told had his home raided by the FBI a while ago. Keep in mind that the PMA Group was a lobbying firm, a powerhouse lobbying firm, that over a period of 8 years collected more than \$100 million in fees from its clients, mostly for seeking earmarks from this Congress. Yet when the news came that the FBI was investigating and had raided the office, that firm, that I believe brought in about \$17 million last year alone in revenue, imploded, within a week. By the end of this month it will be completely gone, dissolved. And when you read some of allegations that are going around in the press, you don't wonder why.

CQ Today reported recently that Mr. Magliocchetti and nine of his rel-

atives—two children, daughter-in-law, current wife, his ex-wife, ex-wife's parents, sister and brother-in-law—provided \$1.5 million in political contributions from 2000 to 2008. Now if you look at some of the occupations listed by some of those who were giving \$100,000 over just a couple of years—school teacher, police sergeant, homemaker—does that not raise somebody's antenna that something might be amiss here?

We can't simply let the Justice Department's investigation dictate what we do here in the House. We should move forward ourselves. We shouldn't say that whether or not you can be indicted or convicted should be the standard that we uphold here in the House to uphold the dignity and decorum of this body. Madam Speaker, this body, this Congress, deserves better than that. That's why I hope that we will actually ask this time the Ethics Committee to investigate this matter.

THE BUDGET TAXES TOO MUCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 3½ minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk a little bit about the budget issues that are before us and about how we are spending too much, we're borrowing too much and we're taxing too much. Recently one of my constituents came up and she had a child in her arms. It was her 6-month-old grandchild. She looked at me and she said, Marsha, you know, it makes me really angry when you all spend money that I haven't made, but when Congress is spending money that this grandbaby has not made, it just absolutely infuriates me. It makes me want to come to Washington and knock on the doors of the Members of Congress and say, What are you doing to this child's future?

Madam Speaker, that is what our constituents are saying when they look at this budget proposal that contains the largest tax increase in history, \$1.4 trillion, over a 10-year period of time. Now some of my constituents have said, where do they get this money? Where does this come from and what are they taxing to come up with \$1.4 trillion? Well, I want to talk a second about the cap-and-tax proposal that the President and the administration has brought forward. I want to use a quote that the President made in an editorial board with the San Francisco Chronicle in January 2008. It said under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket. That will cost money. That will pass the money on to consumers.

That was in January 2008. What we see is, yes, electricity rates will go up. Every time an individual flips on a light switch, every time they punch the brew button on their coffee maker, every time they turn on their computer, it is going to cost them more

money, every single time, to the tune of \$3,128 per family per year. That is what we are beginning to see. This is going to increase your cost of doing business in your home every single day of living, that maintenance of life that we all go through.

We're very concerned about this part of the proposal, the cap-and-tax. It is part of the \$1.4 trillion increase.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back my time, and I thank you for yielding the time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, Creator of all things great and small, the ancient Celtic people took such joy in nature's secrets as well as its beauty. They found Your presence in every spring, every lake, forest and glen. Each was a sanctuary where prayer came easily, and the poetry of creation became a spark of Your own Divine light.

Be with Congress today. Bless its aspirations and its work. Be close to this Nation, and intimately present to its people.

In the midst of anxieties, busy work, and grave responsibilities, grant them a moment to be touched by Your glorious creation so they, too, find praise on their lips and joy in their hearts for another day, and a sense of Your eternal goodness.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KINGSTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONCERNS OVER AIG BONUSES

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, like most Americans, I am deeply outraged this morning that while millions of people suffer through this difficult economy, AIG executives are seeking to take \$165 million in bonus pay. The scope and depth of this waste and greed are just shocking and unjustifiable. It is beyond my imagination that they would do that.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a district in North Carolina where the median household income is just a little bit more than \$30,000 per year. These Americans must work extremely hard every day just to meet their obligations.

It is patently unfair that hard-working Americans could be asked to work harder to pay more taxes that are needed simply to provide AIG executives with multimillion-dollar bonuses. It is patently unfair.

I encourage this body and President Barack Obama to take every avenue possible to stop these bonuses or, if they are legally unstoppable, to tax them beyond belief.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Mr. Paul Magliocchetti, a former Appropriations Committee staffer, founded a prominent lobbying firm specializing in obtaining defense earmarks for its clients and whose offices—along with the home of the founder—were recently raided by the FBI.

Whereas, the lobbying firm has shuttered its political action committee and is scheduled to cease operations at the end of the month but, according to the New York Times, "not before leaving a detailed blueprint of how the political money churn works in Congress" and amid multiple press reports that its founder is the focus of a Justice Department investigation. (The New York Times, February 20, 2009)

Whereas, CQ Today noted that the firm has "accepted \$107 million in lobbying fees from 2000 through 2008" and estimates of political giving by the raided firm have varied in the press, with The Hill reporting that the firm has given \$3.4 million to no less than 284 members of Congress. (CQ Today, March 12, 2009; The Hill, March 4, 2009)

Whereas, The Hill reported that Mr. Magliocchetti is "under investigation for [the firm's] campaign donations," the Washington Post highlighted the fact that federal investigators are "focused on allegations" that he "may have reimbursed some of his staff to cover contributions made in their names . . ." and the New York Times noted

that federal prosecutors are "looking into the possibility" that he "may have funneled bogus campaign contributions" to members of Congress. (The Hill, February 20, 2009; The Washington Post, February 14, 2009; The New York Times, February 11, 2009)

Whereas, Roll Call reported on "the suspicious pattern of giving established by two Floridians who joined [the firm's] board of directors in 2006" and who, with "no previous political profile . . . made more than \$160,000 in campaign contributions over a three-year period" and "generally contributed the same amount to the same candidate on the same days." (Roll Call, February 20, 2009)

Whereas, The Hill also reported that "the embattled defense lobbyist who led the FBI-raided [firm] has entered into a Florida-based business with two associates whose political donations have come into question" and is listed in corporate records as being an executive with them in a restaurant business. (The Hill, February 17, 2009)

Whereas, Roll Call also reported that it had located tens of thousands of dollars of donations linked to the firm that "are improperly reported in the FEC database." (Roll Call, February 20, 2009)

Whereas, CQ Today recently reported that Mr. Magliocchetti and "nine of his relatives—two children, his daughter-in-law, his current wife, his ex-wife and his ex-wife's parents, sister, and brother-in-law" provided "\$1.5 million in political contributions from 2000 through 2008 as the lobbyist's now-embattled firm helped clients win billions of dollars in federal contracts," with the majority of the family members contributing in excess of \$100,000 in that timeframe. (CQ Today, March 12, 2009)

Whereas, CQ Today also noted that "all but one of the family members were recorded as working for [the firm] in campaign finance reports, and most also were listed as having other employers" and with other occupations such as assistant ticket director for a Class A baseball team, a school teacher, a police sergeant, and a homemaker. (CQ Today, March 12, 2009)

Whereas, in addition to reports of allegations related to reimbursing employees and the concerning patterns of contributions of business associates and board members, ABC News reported that some former clients of the firm "have complained of being pressured by [the firm's] lobbyists to write checks for politicians they either had no interest in or openly opposed." (ABC News The Blotter, March 4, 2009)

Whereas, Roll Call has taken note of the timing of contributions from employees of Mr. Magliocchetti's firm and its clients when it reported that they "have provided thousands of dollars worth of campaign contributions to key Members in close proximity to legislative activity, such as the deadline for earmark request letters or passage of a spending bill." (Roll Call, March 3, 2009)

Whereas, reports of the firm's success in obtaining earmarks for their clients are widespread, with CQ Today reporting that "104 House members got earmarks for projects sought by [clients of the firm] in the 2008 defense appropriations bills," and that 87 percent of this bipartisan group of Members received campaign contributions from the raided firm. (CQ Today, February 19, 2009)

Whereas, clients of Mr. Magliocchetti's firm received at least three hundred million dollars worth of earmarks in fiscal year 2009 appropriations legislation, including several that were approved even after news of the FBI raid and Justice Department investigation into the firm and its founder was well known.

Whereas, the Chicago Tribune noted that the ties between a senior House Appropriations Committee member and Mr.

Magliocchetti's firm "reflect a culture of pay-to-play in Washington." and ABC News indicated that "the firm's operations—millions out to lawmakers, hundreds of millions back in earmarks for clients—have made it, for many observers, the poster child for tacit "pay-to-play" politics . . ." (Chicago Tribune, March 2, 2009; ABC News The Blotter, March 4, 2009)

Whereas Roll Call has reported that "a handful of lawmakers had already begun to refund donations tied to" the firm "at the center of a federal probe . . ." (Roll Call, February 23, 2009)

Whereas, the persistent media attention focused on questions about the nature and timing of campaign contributions related to Mr. Magliocchetti, as well as reports of the Justice Department conducting research on earmarks and campaign contributions, raise concern about the integrity of Congressional proceedings and the dignity of the institution.

Whereas, the fact that cases are being investigated by the Justice Department does not preclude the Committee on Standards from taking investigative steps: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That

(a) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, shall immediately begin an investigation into the relationship between the source and timing of past campaign contributions to Members of the House related to the founder of the raided firm and earmark requests made by Members of the House on behalf of clients of the raided firm.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

WHAT'S GOOD FOR DETROIT IS GOOD FOR WALL STREET

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this week, we saw the latest outrage from Wall Street when it was exposed that AIG paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses, much of which went to workers in the division that helped actually cause the economic meltdown, and all with taxpayers' money. The excuse we are given is that those are contractual obligations and they must be paid, and we are supposed to just accept that.

Let us contrast that with how American auto workers are treated when General Motors or Chrysler need bridge loans from the government. They are told that they make too much money and that their contracts are killing the companies, and that they must take less or else the Federal Government will let the companies die.

So let's get this straight; AIG employees, who helped implode the economy, are given bonuses with taxpayers' money because it's in their contract, while UAW workers whose companies were badly hurt by the economic meltdown—partially caused by AIG—are told that their contracts must be disregarded or renegotiated. That is a vivid example of the double standard where people who work on Wall Street get their contracts upheld, but people who work on the line, it doesn't matter, and let them eat cake. This is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT OF 2009

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, like everybody else in this Chamber, I am outraged about AIG. They got \$170 billion in taxpayer funds to bail them out of a situation which was largely of their own creation. And they then made it worse by giving \$165 million in bonuses to people who had participated in the outrage about which all Americans are so infuriated.

The Federal Government is trying to save this corporation because it's too big to fail, but we don't have to save a bunch of money-grubbing rascals who had a part in the collapse of our economy, which they helped to bring about.

I am introducing a bill today which is going to address the problem. It is entitled, the "Responsible Corporate Executive Compensation Act of 2009." It will impose a 95 percent tax on bonuses paid to employees of TARP recipients.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and help make certain that hardworking Americans are not the only ones who have to sacrifice during this time of severe economic stress and uncertainty.

WE OWE OUR VETERANS EVERYTHING

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, last week the administration announced plans for veterans to rely on private insurance company payments for the treatment of their war wounds. The American Legion's Commander Rehbein and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Executive Director Reickhoff

have already expressed very strong concerns.

The government broke these soldiers in battles across World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. We, the citizens of America, owe veterans care through our government. Veterans should not depend on private insurance companies who bear no moral bond to soldiers or their pain.

One of President Washington's first missions was to care for veterans. President Lincoln promised "to care for him who bore the brunt of battle, his widow and his orphan."

President Obama eloquently portrays Lincoln as his hero, and it is clear what Lincoln would advise today.

Care for our veterans, Mr. President. Private companies owe them very little. We, the American people and our Federal Government, owe them everything.

□ 1215

DISCRIMINATION IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, discrimination is alive and well all across America. You may not have heard about it on the radio or seen it on television, but it's still alive and well. You won't see it on television because discrimination today is beneath the skin, beneath the skin of our entire society, as insurance companies, omnipotent as they are, continue to discriminate based on the preexisting condition of a citizen.

These insurance companies no longer discriminate on the basis of skin color. Rather, they discriminate against women because of the calcium, or the lack of it, in their bones. They discriminate against people who may have coronary artery disease or any of a number of medical conditions.

The lessons of both my profession and my faith have made it clear: We are all really the same beneath our skin. We're all made of the same clay. And 40 years after the civil rights movement has established that all citizens of any color shall be able to drink from the same water fountain, sit on the same bus, and attend the same medical clinic, our Nation still remains divided, not by skin color but by skin chemistry.

Mr. Speaker, it's time we bring an end to discrimination in health care.

THE FLOGGING OF GRANDMA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week was International Women's Day to proclaim human rights for all women.

Obviously, Saudi Arabia didn't get the memo. In the name of religion, the

official Muslim religious police arrested a 75-year-old woman for accepting bread from two young men. The crime: She had the arrogance to be with males who were not blood kin.

To the religious police in Saudi Arabia, her behavior cannot be tolerated. So the 75-year-old woman was hauled off to court, and a judge ordered her to receive, get this, 40 lashes and 4 months in jail with deportation to follow. And the two boys who were kind to her by giving her bread: lashes and prison for them too.

The official Muslim religious police are feared by women in Saudi Arabia because they enter homes to enforce dress codes, prayer times, and segregation of the sexes. Flogging women in the name of religion for accepting bread from young men seems to be anti-social action and contrary to basic human rights.

So much for the idea of helping the widows and the orphans. Maybe next year grandmas in Saudi Arabia can celebrate International Women's Day without being flogged by their government.

And that's just the way it is.

THE ECONOMY

(Ms. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, mistaken policies, misplaced priorities, and profound irresponsibility have brought us where we are today. President Obama and this Congress are committed to real change. And what is that change? We propose solutions, real solutions. An honest budget, rejecting gimmicks, and eliminating the wasteful spending that has brought us to this trillion dollar deficit that we now have today.

What the American people need are tax cuts, and 95 percent of Americans will now receive a tax cut. What do the American people need? A double commitment of the investment of Pell grants, of looking at a commitment to Head Start, and so many of the other vital areas.

When we look at this Congress, we are committed to fixing health care, not to be a party of "no," but to say that we are going to address what is happening for struggling homeowners.

The American Recovery Act addressed and is helping us to bring forward 3.5 million jobs to help stabilize the State budgets and to dig us out of this fiscal mess that we inherited over the last 8 years.

We can recover, we must recover, because as Americans, failure is not an option.

ENERGY

(Mr. CASSIDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, as regards to energy, I'm an all-of-the-

above-type person. We need a diversity of energy sources. But we will not be carbon free for generations. Our need for plastics, fertilizers, lubricants, and fuels so dictates.

So given the fact that we're not going to be carbon free, it seems like domestic energy production should be encouraged. If we've got to have something, it's better for us to buy it from ourselves, for our workers, for the money to stay here.

In Louisiana alone, my home State, oil and gas production in the petrochemical industry employs 320,000 people. They work as welders, pipe-fitters, on barges, engineers. Countless small businesses with another 100,000 or so workers. Yet the President's budget contains at least eight separate tax hikes specifically targeting domestic oil and gas production.

Tax hikes create uncertainty, uncertainty creates caution, and caution inhibits economic activity. As we seek energy security and to create and preserve American jobs, I have to ask why are we punishing the industry which contributes both?

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY'S ATTEMPT TO REWRITE HISTORY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday former Vice President Cheney made the latest in a series of outrageous attempts to rewrite history. He suggested that America was less safe now than under President Bush. Well, as a former journalist and editor, I'm compelled to do a little rewrite of his story.

I think it is important to note that under President Bush and Vice President Cheney, we let Osama bin Laden escape. We took our eye off the ball in Afghanistan and moved to Iraq. We went into Iraq with no plan for victory. We heard from Vice President Cheney that we were going to be greeted as liberators, that WMD would certainly be found, and that this war was going to be very short and cost us very little money.

My editing of Vice President Cheney's statement on Sunday would be that he did not exactly tell the whole story.

Fortunately, the American people know the whole story. They know that we are much safer now with President Obama in the White House. So as the recently departed Paul Harvey would have said, "And now you know the rest of the story."

CALLING FOR THE PREVENTION OF BONUSES PAID TO AIG EXECUTIVES AT TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, the American people were outraged yesterday, and with good reason, when they learned that the bonuses of \$165 million were going to executives at AIG, an insurance company. They are the very executives who drove the company to the ground and helped create the economic problems we're facing today. Instead of getting bonuses, they should be fired.

AIG is now 80 percent owned by the Federal Government, which is the American people. This is an outrageous injustice at taxpayers' expense.

I have been in business 30 years. We always pay for results, proven results, in this case something that would be a return to the American people. But that hasn't happened. This rewards greed and recklessness.

AIG recently reported in a 2008 fourth quarter more than \$60 billion in losses, all while the unemployment in America hit a 25-year high.

I ask the President to use all the power at his disposal to prevent these bonuses from being paid at taxpayers' expense.

CALLING FOR 100 PERCENT TAX ON "PERFORMANCE" BONUSES BY ANY COMPANY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OWNS A MAJORITY STAKE

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, we all know the news yesterday that AIG is paying over \$100 million in bonuses. I find this an absolute outrage. I'm glad the President has directed the Treasury Department to use all legal means to restrict these bonuses.

But we in Congress can actually make the laws, and here's a law we should make: Tax the bonuses of any company in which the government owns a majority stake at 100 percent. I have introduced this bill today—tax so-called "performance" bonuses at 100 percent.

Bonuses are supposed to be given to someone who has done a good job. But AIG, as my colleague said, and we've found something we agree on, lost over \$70 billion in the last quarter. We put in \$170 billion of taxpayers' money. They don't deserve a bonus. They deserve better management. They deserve certainly a restriction on the bonuses that they have. And I really applaud President Obama, who said yesterday that this isn't just a matter of dollars and cents; it's a matter of fundamental values.

I urge my colleagues to join me in taxing this bonus.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET: TAXES TOO MANY TOO MUCH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have broken their promise not to raise taxes on 95 percent of Americans. Democrats are proposing to tax small businesses and everyone who plans to turn on a light, drive a car, or heat their home.

Under the Democrat budget, many small businesses will see their taxes go up. At a time when our economy is in trouble, this budget raises taxes on the one group that creates the most jobs in America.

But small businesses are not alone. Under the new Democrat cap, trade, and tax proposal, every household in this country would pay as much as \$3,128 each year in higher energy costs. This would surely overwhelm any tax break they may be getting.

The President says this budget is not just about numbers on a page. I agree. There are real families and small businesses that will be hurt by the \$1.4 trillion in new taxes this budget will create.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the bonuses announced by AIG are nothing less than a slap in the face to the tax-paying families across my district and across the entire country. Families that are struggling to pay rising energy bills and put food on their table.

To expect hardworking middle class families in my district and across the country to foot the bill for executive bonuses when those same executives failed in their job and dragged our economy down with them is completely unacceptable.

My constituents pay their bills on time. They make hard financial choices, and they meet their responsibilities each and every day without a bailout.

This is truly a nonpartisan issue. I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and with the administration to build a regulatory system founded on accountability. That is why I support legislation to hold these irresponsible individuals accountable and demand that they pay back to the American people the money that we gave them in bailouts.

Now is the time for comprehensive financial regulatory reform and accountability. Never again should we leave the foxes in charge of the henhouse.

THE DEMOCRAT PARTY: THE PARTY OF "OWE"

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat budget that we are looking at of \$3.6 trillion spends too much, taxes too much, and it borrows too much.

Not that spending is a problem to this majority. Take recently the town of Union, New York, which received \$578,000 in stimulus money that they did not ask for, and the money was earmarked for a homeless prevention shelter, which they do not have. Now the town supervisor says this is nice but we're not aware of any homeless problem in Union, New York.

Nonetheless, the White House, instead of saying this is a mistake, they simply say we encourage them to develop creative strategies for this funding.

This party is the party of "owe." They owe China. They owe their big union lobbyists. They owe our children and the future generations. And, oh, my goodness, look how many O's are in \$3.6 trillion.

□ 1230

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the President's fiscal year 2010 budget proposal. We are in a crucial time in our Nation's history. According to a recent CNN poll, 45 percent of Americans believe that another Great Depression is likely.

The President's budget represents a bold strike to revitalize the economy and provides a path to future economic stability and prosperity. The proposal is a good start.

There are, however, areas that require further refinement. The suggestion to limit itemized deductions will have negative unintended consequences. As charitable donations become scarcer in these trying times, signaling an intent to limit their tax-deductible value may further impair charitable giving at precisely the time we need more.

Capping the mortgage interest deduction will cause unintended discouragement for homeownership at precisely the time we need to stabilize home values. We also must consider increasing the \$250,000 income cap for raising tax brackets. In my district, with one of the highest costs of living and one of the highest percentages of dual incomes, the proposed level would be a difficult imposition. Additionally, we must ensure pay parity between civilian and military government employees as we ask more of the civilian workforce.

Overall, I expect the proposed budget to be worked out over the next few weeks in the Budget Committee.

LEGISLATIVE MALPRACTICE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President's chief of staff said, "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. It's an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before."

In other words, the administration and this Congress are exploiting our financial crisis, inserting many of their political-agenda items into the massive spending bills without due deliberation: items like repeal of welfare reform; like the comparative effectiveness board that will lead to rationed health care; like electricity rate decoupling, which increases electricity prices as people use less energy; like easing Cuba travel restrictions; like mandating Davis-Bacon for all contract projects in the country; like killing school choice for poor kids in Washington; and parts of government-run health care and the cap-and-trade energy taxes and more and more.

Without one Member of the House reading these 1,100-page-plus bills, Mr. Speaker, this is legislative malpractice.

AIG AND THEIR BIG-TIME BONUSES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my e-mail inbox is full of constituents fed up with AIG. I don't blame them. I have had it up to here with bad news about AIG and their big-time bonuses. They should return that money.

As a U.S. News columnist asked, "Forget bonuses. Why are these people still collecting regular paychecks?" I am glad that New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo demanded AIG provide information on who is receiving bonuses in its Financial Products Group. Those who receive the fat-cat bonuses are mainly responsible for the company's and the country's financial problems.

I say fire them all. They don't deserve bonuses. Turn them over to the Marines. Put them in the brig.

CONGRATULATING ZWOLLE AND SPRINGHILL ON WINNING BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the accomplishments of two outstanding basketball programs that brought home Louisiana State titles in my district over this weekend.

The Springhill High School Lumberjacks won the Class 2A State championship on Saturday with a 70-66 victory over Many High School. Antonious Markray ended a stellar high-school career with a game high of 29 points for the Lumberjacks. This is the first State title in the modern era for Springhill, Louisiana.

Also winning a State title this week-end were the Class B champions from Zwolle High School. The Hawks beat Rapides 55-53 with Antonio Holmes leading the way. He finished with 17 points and was awarded the MVP trophy. This is the third State title in 4 years for Zwolle.

Congratulations to the players, coaches and parents of the Lumberjacks and the Hawks for a job well done.

HONORING THE EDEN PRAIRIE EAGLES BOYS HOCKEY TEAM

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Eden Prairie Eagles boys hockey team that won the Minnesota State High School Class AA Tournament just this past weekend.

Minnesota is known as the "State of Hockey," and I submit we have the highest quality high school hockey tournament in the Nation. Led by coach Lee Smith, the talented Eden Prairie team had a tough road to the title.

They beat defending State champion Hill-Murray in the opening round, and they followed that win with a victory over a tough Blaine team. In the final, they defeated a tough Moorhead team as well, 3-0, to win the school's very first high school hockey championship for Eden Prairie.

As a resident of Eden Prairie myself, I am especially proud of the Eagles. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our praises and congratulations to the coaches, the parents and the talented group of scholar athletes for a great season. And I also heartily applaud the school spirit of the student cheering section, which was the largest at the tournament.

OUTRAGE OVER HARASSMENT OF U.S. UNARMED CIVILIANS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I have watched in the last several minutes as one by one people have come up to these podiums and beaten them and talked about being outraged. But 10 days ago, one of our naval vessels that was unarmed, full of civilians, was harassed by a Chinese aircraft and five Chinese vessels, and this House has not had time to express the outrage for what has happened with that.

We had time to pass a bill that expressed our outrage of how they treat-

ed the people of Tibet, but not over unarmed American civilians. We had time yesterday to pass three pieces of enormous legislation naming post offices, but not time to express our outrage over the harassment of U.S. civilians who are unarmed in international waters. Today we will leave at 3 o'clock, but we won't have time to express our outrage over unarmed civilians.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this House leadership will change its position, bring the resolution to the floor and send a message that we are going to protect and defend our people when they are in international waters.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET SPENDS TOO MUCH, TAXES TOO MUCH AND BORROWS TOO MUCH

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. It's St. Patrick's Day, Mr. Speaker, and my Irish grandfather would want me to do nothing short of acknowledging that and wearing the green. But I have to tell you, with the headlines about bailouts, the President's budget for \$3.5 trillion and more spending and more taxes to grow government and pay for more bailouts, it's enough to get my Irish up.

Reality is that when the American people are taking a closer and closer look at this administration's budget, they know three things. This President's budget spends too much, it taxes too much and it borrows too much.

Believe it or not, in these times when the American people are saying enough is enough on big government spending and bailouts, this administration is poised to raise taxes on small business owners. Fifty percent of Americans who file taxes above the level the President wants to raise them are actually small business owners filing as individuals.

The average American household will pay \$3,100 more with the President's new energy tax. And with the President capping charitable giving, charities in this country, churches and synagogues and the like could lose \$9 billion this year alone.

Enough is enough. We have to say no to the President's budget and give the American people a budget that is strong and diverse and restrained and committed to growth as they are.

HOUSE CONSERVATIVES AND THE MINORITY TODAY ARE READY TO LEAD AND OFFER ALTER- NATIVES

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the conservatives who won re-election in the House are those who overwhelmingly voted against the massive spending programs that were proposed over

the course of the last administration, who voted against the \$1.5 trillion of new spending of this new administration. And we, House conservatives and the minority today, are ready to lead. We are offering alternatives to this massive spending program proposed by this new administration.

In only 38 legislative days, Mr. Speaker, the new liberal majority that rules Congress and rules the White House has managed to spend more money in less time than any Congress in the history of the United States. Never before have so few spent so much money in so little time.

This budget proposed by the White House, spending \$3.5 trillion, driving up the deficit to triple the level of last year, doubling the national debt in 8 years, ignores the financial hurricane just over the horizon that House conservatives are ready to deal with. This Nation faces unfunded liabilities at unprecedented levels, and we have got to just say "no" to more spending.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND NEW TAX BURDEN

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, growing up, my father ran two small businesses, a sporting goods business and a marina, both of which I worked at over the years. My grandfather's family worked a local dairy and farm.

So, Mr. Speaker, I was a bit taken back when the administration's budget proposal came across my desk last week. I know you often hear politicians speak about small business being the backbone of our economy, but it's true, and even more so in the American rural communities that I represent.

With 710 new jobs created by small business owners, these individuals are key to the revitalization of our economy and putting folks back to work. This budget proposal will increase the tax burden on every single small business owner not once, but twice. Overhead costs, raw materials, transportation, and every other segment of the supply chain will skyrocket under this proposal.

This is not acceptable and will only lengthen this recession and penalize the very best people that are best equipped to put folks back to work. Now, I will give credit where credit is due. I was pleased to see the President take a step in the right direction yesterday by relaxing the lending rules at the Small Business Administration to allow credit to flow more freely.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET TAXES TOO MUCH

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, hardworking Americans across this country are trimming their budgets and finding ways to save and make sacrifices. In these tough economic times the Federal Government should be held to that same standard.

During a time of economic instability, we cannot start raising taxes to pay for more government spending. Unfortunately, that's exactly what the President has proposed in his budget that he has submitted to Congress. The administration proposes to raise taxes \$1.4 trillion over the next 10 years, which includes taxes on small businesses, the backbone of our economy.

Let's be clear about what \$1 trillion is. If you started counting to \$1 trillion, 1, 2, 3, it would only take you 31,708 years to count to 1 trillion. Yet we are talking about \$1.3 trillion in new taxes.

The American taxpayers deserve a better plan for individuals and small businesses. We must empower American individuals and families. The road to economic recovery is paved with healthy small business communities creating jobs and opportunity.

Congress and the administration should focus on solutions that empower individuals and businesses to succeed in the economy, rather than solutions that spend too much, borrow too much and tax too much.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS RECIPE FOR HIGH INFLATION

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget is a recipe for high inflation, higher interest rates and a permanent downsizing of the U.S. economy.

For the President to say that this budget has fiscal year discipline defies all common sense. The President says he will cut the deficit in half over the next 5 years. However, that is only after he hikes it to over \$1 trillion in the first year. His promise of never having a balanced budget has even caused our largest public debt holder, the People's Republic of China, to take notice and express concern over the lack of fiscal responsibilities in this budget.

When the economy begins to recover, public borrowing under the President's budget will compete with the demand for private borrowing, leading to a dramatic rise in interest rates and inflation, weakening the value of the dollar and lessening the value of U.S. Treasury notes.

Mr. Speaker, this budget taxes too much, spends too much and borrows too much and must be defeated.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING NORDIC SKI CLUB

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an achievement of the University of Wyoming Nordic Ski Club.

Two weeks ago, this team swept the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association Nationals, with the men's and women's team both bringing home the gold.

I would like to congratulate coaches Christi Boggs and Rachel Watson, who led this team to double championship titles at Devil's Thumb Ranch in Colorado. This is the fourth national title for the University of Wyoming's women's program and the second for the men's program in 10 years.

Particular recognition should also go to Daniel Lewis, who came away with three individual championships, as well as his fellow teammates on the men's championship relay team, Eliah Pedersen and Evgeniy Panzhinskiy. In addition to these three accomplished young men, John Kirlin was named an Overall Individual All-American.

On the women's team, this title was awarded to Gracey Lewis, Kari Boroff, Gwynn Barrows and Marie Cartwright.

Again, I congratulate the University of Wyoming ski teams, my alma mater ski teams, on all their success. The Cowboy State is proud of these young men and women.

□ 1245

CAP-AND-TAX PROVISION HURTS AN AILING ECONOMY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. The President today said that he was frustrated at the Republicans' "just say no" attitude. Well, this is what I am going to say "no" to. I am saying "no" to a 686 billion carbon tax increase. What does that mean?

This is Peabody Mine No. 10 in 1990. After the last Clean Air amendments, this mine was shut down. We lost over 1,200 mineworkers' jobs because of that.

The carbon tax, the cap-and-tax provision in the budget bill, will raise costs to every energy user in this country, hurting manufacturing, hurting retail industries. It's egregious, it's not necessary, and it only hurts an ailing economy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 240) to support the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 240

Whereas social workers have the demonstrated education and experience to guide individuals, families, and communities through complex issues and choices;

Whereas social workers help people in all stages of life, from children to the elderly, and in all situations from adoption to hospice care;

Whereas social workers are in schools, courtrooms, drug clinics, hospitals, senior centers, shelters, nursing homes, the military, disaster relief, prisons, and corporations;

Whereas social workers are dedicated to improving the society in which we live and connecting individuals, families, and communities to available resources;

Whereas social workers stand up for others to make sure everyone has access to the same basic rights, protections, and opportunities;

Whereas social workers, such as Harry Hopkins, Frances Perkins, Whitney M. Young, Jr., and Dr. Dorothy I. Height have been the driving force behind important social movements in the United States and abroad;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for social workers is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations;

Whereas Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day, which is March 17, 2009, will build awareness of the role of professional social workers and their commitment and dedication to individuals, families, and communities everywhere through service delivery, research, education, and legislative advocacy; and

Whereas the 2009 Social Work Month theme—Social Work: Purpose and Possibility—highlights the special characteristics of those who choose social work as a profession, and underscores the goals of their work: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and groups who promote the importance of social work and who are observing Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(3) encourages the American people to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities to further promote awareness of the life-changing role of social workers;

(4) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring individuals who have chosen to serve their communities through social work; and

(5) encourages young people to seek out educational and professional opportunities to become social workers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on House Resolution 240 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day. Social workers are valuable members of all communities, helping people in all stages of life, from birth through the elderly, and in all situations, from adoption to hospice care and end of life. Dedicating their education and experience, social workers help to guide individuals, families, and communities through complicated issues and complex choices.

There are more than 600,000 people in the United States who have devoted their lives to social work and to the improvement of the society in which we live by obtaining social work degrees. Many social workers have been the driving force behind important social movements in the United States and abroad.

A few examples include Harry Hopkins, who relocated to New Orleans in order to work for the American Red Cross as Director of Civilian Relief, Gulf Division; or Francis Perkins, who championed the minimum wage laws and reduced the workweek for women to 48 hours.

My late grandmother, Ruth Schutz, was a social worker for over 20 years in New York City, as well as a progressive activist. These are the frequently unsung heroes of our communities, and that's why it's important that we recognize them here today, Mr. Speaker.

Social workers labor in schools, courtrooms, drug clinics, hospitals, senior centers, shelters, nursing homes, the military, disaster relief, prisons, and corporations all over the country as they stand up for others to make sure that everyone has access to the same basic rights, protections, and opportunities.

This is hard work, emotionally difficult, and frequently thankless work, which is why it's so important that our body take this step to honor social workers here today.

However, the need for social workers is expected to grow twice as fast as other occupations, especially in gerontology and home health care issues as our aging demographic requires more services for our seniors. Substance abuse, private social service agencies, and school social work also continue to increase.

Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day, which is March 17, 2009, will build awareness of

the role of professional social workers and their commitment and dedication to individuals, families, and community everywhere through service delivery, research, education, and legislative advocacy.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring those who choose social work as a profession in their endeavors to better society.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 240, which supports the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day.

As a health care professional of three decades and a former licensed nursing home administrator, I observed personally every day social workers making meaningful contributions throughout the Nation.

They are on the front lines helping people overcome life's most difficult challenges—poverty, abuse, addiction, illness, disability, discrimination, and more. Social workers are the Nation's largest providers of mental health services, delivering 60 percent of mental health treatment.

However, these highly trained professionals also work in schools, hospitals, health care agencies, senior centers, crisis centers, and military bases. Social workers also actively advocate changes in policy and legislation to strengthen the social safety nets critical to so many. Whether in direct practice, administration, education, research, or policy development, social workers promote social justice for all.

According to the International Federation of Social Workers, social work grew out of humanitarian and democratic ideals, and its values are based on respect for equality, worth, and dignity of all people.

Since its beginnings over a century ago, social work has focused on meeting human needs and developing human potential. Human rights and social justice serve as the motivation and justification for social work action. In solidarity with those who are less fortunate, the profession strives to alleviate poverty and to promote inclusion for the most vulnerable populations.

This year's Social Work Month theme—"Purpose and Possibility"—truly highlights the special characteristics of those who choose social work as a profession and underscores the goals of their work. While their day-to-day work often goes unnoticed, we stand today to recognize with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring individuals who have chosen to serve their communities through social work. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. By passing this resolution and by bringing attention to Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day, which is March 17,

2009, we can not only bring attention and appreciation to an important profession, but engage in a discussion about the important role of social workers in keeping and weaving our community fabric together.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak on behalf of House Resolution 240, which honors the dedication and compassion of professional social workers. Our highest calling is to provide service to others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves.

In the early 20th century, thousands of people lived in despair and poverty, and it was the early progressive moment in which the social work movement was born, providing food, clothing, health care and education to the less fortunate.

Social workers had a role in civil rights and in women's freedom. Today, social workers continue this fight to ensure that vulnerable families have the support and the health care that they need.

Social workers are everywhere in our society, caring for all of us. They help people in all stages of life, from children to the elderly, and in all situations, from adoption to hospice care. You can find social workers in hospitals, police departments, mental health clinics, military facilities and corporations.

Professional social workers are the Nation's largest providers of mental health care services. They provide more mental health services than psychologists, psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses combined.

The Veterans Administration employs more than 4,400 social workers to assist veterans and their families with individual and family counseling, client education, end-of-life planning, substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention and other services.

Today we thank all those who have toiled in the fields of our community, including my grandmother, who left the comfort of her home each day at the turn of the century and went to the Lower East Side to help immigrants. And we praise all of those who reach out to others every day in their community.

Social workers' service makes our communities stronger. March is National Professional Work Month, and Tuesday, March 17 is World Social Work Day. I honor their service and thank them for caring for all of us each day.

Mr. POLIS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 211) supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 211

Whereas the purpose of National Women's History Month is to increase awareness and knowledge of women's involvement in history;

Whereas as recently as the 1970s, women's history was rarely included in the kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum and was not part of public awareness;

Whereas the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978 centered around International Women's History Day, which is celebrated on March 8th;

Whereas in 1981, responding to the growing popularity of women's history celebrations, Congress passed a resolution making Women's History Week a national observance;

Whereas during this time, using information provided by the National Women's History Project, founded in Sonoma County, California, thousands of schools and communities joined in the commemoration of National Women's History Week, with support and encouragement from governors, city councils, school boards, and Congress;

Whereas in 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to include the entire month of March;

Whereas educators, workplace program planners, parents, and community organizations in thousands of American communities, under the guidance of the National Women's History Project, have turned National Women's History Month into a major local learning experience and celebration;

Whereas the popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage;

Whereas the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History was established to consider how best to acknowledge and celebrate the roles and accomplishments of women in American history;

Whereas the National Women's History Museum was founded in 1996 as an institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women, and integrating this rich heritage fully into the Nation's teachings and history books;

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes March 2009 as National Women's History Month; and

Whereas the theme of National Women's History Month for 2009 is women taking the lead to save our planet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month; and

(2) recognizes and honors the women and organizations in the United States that have fought for and continue to promote the teaching of women's history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Res. 211, which is designed to provide recognition and support for National Women's History Month, which is commemorated annually during the month of March.

Sponsored by our colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY of California, H. Res. 211 was introduced on March 5, 2009, and is currently cosponsored by 115 Members of Congress, both men and women, as well as from both sides of the aisle. The measure was considered by Chairman TOWNS and the Oversight panel on March 10, 2009, where it was passed without objection by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I contend that it would be challenging to recount history without recognizing the profound role that women have played in every community, State, and country throughout the world. While only a small measure of appreciation, today's consideration of H. Res. 211 is designed to express the appreciation and the gratitude of this legislative body for the priceless and timeless contribution of women throughout history.

The origins of National Women's History Month dates back to 1978 when organizers in Sonoma County, California, established a public celebration of women's history, calling it "Women's History Week." In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month-long commemoration by declaring March as Women's History Month.

Since the 1970s, we in America have seen notable growth in the study and expansion of women's history. In fact, today almost every college offers women's history courses and most major graduate programs offer doctoral degrees in this important field of study.

Even today, we continue to witness women history makers—from our very own Speaker of the House to the Speaker of the California State Assembly. From Governors and mayors to successful businesswomen, scientists, athletes, teachers and, of course, mothers, women are clearly making a difference in our country and in our world.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in recognizing Women's History Month. This is important. We rec-

ognize a great many days and months here in the Capitol, and sometimes we get disparaged for it. But I think when we look at the important role and the partnership since Colonial times until this very day that women have spent and made in our history, we do so without it being properly marked in history.

One needs to dig a little deeper in order to see the equal participation of women. Our Founding Fathers did not make the decision to go to war without the support of their families because their land, their property, and their very lives were at stake when they made that decision.

Since 1987, this country has recognized Women's History Month in this month, and we should. National Women's History Month has also received the support of Federal, State, and local officials that allow for public fora to raise the awareness and perhaps to inspire a next generation of women to do all that they can do, be all that they can be, and participate in ways that women throughout our history have, and more.

So I join with my colleagues, and particularly my California colleague, Representative WOOLSEY, in asking that we take a moment to recognize Women's History Month.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the sponsor of the resolution, Ms. WOOLSEY of California, for 4 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Women's History Month. Women were once considered second-class citizens whose rights were restricted, from voting to property ownership. But today, women serve in the Senate and the House of Representatives, they serve as members of the President's cabinet, and as Speaker of the House of Representatives. It is important that the role that women have played in shaping this country is honored. However, it wasn't until the late 1970s that women's history was taught in our schools. It was almost completely absent in media coverage and cultural celebrations.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, in 1998, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, when I was the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, initiated a women's history week celebration, a celebration that centered around International Women's History Day. The National Women's History Project, located in my district, was founded in 1980 by many dedicated women who poured their hearts and their ideas into promoting and expanding the weeklong celebration. Because several dedicated women, including Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett, and Bette Morgan, decided to write women back into history, thousands of schools and communities then started to commemorate Women's

History Week by bringing lessons on women's achievements into the classroom, staging parades, and engaging neighborhoods and churches in celebration of the contributions of women.

The hard work and dedication of these women and the support of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women paid off. They started a national movement, and in 1981 Congress responded to the growing popularity of Women's History Week by making it a national observance in 1987 and expanding the week to a month, the month of March.

Imagine what American history lessons would be today without teaching about Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad; or the work of Elizabeth Cady Stanton or Susan B. Anthony, and the many women who fought for women's suffrage; or Dr. Sally K. Ride, who was the first woman in space, encouraging more girls to be interested in science.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our commitment to the celebration of women's history by supporting H. Res. 211, to ensure our grandchildren and great grandchildren learn more about women like Amelia Earhart and, eventually, the first woman President.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman TOWNS, Chairman CLAY, and Ranking Member ISSA for supporting this resolution. Let us reflect on the contributions of women. Let us reflect on their place in history, with the hope that the day will come, and soon, when it is impossible to study American history without remembering the contribution of women.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, it gives me great pleasure to rise in strong support of H. Res. 211, Recognizing March As Women's History Month. I want to thank Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY for introducing this resolution, and to acknowledge our own woman Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI.

Women's History Month is about recognizing the achievements of women throughout our history, while also acknowledging the significant obstacles they had to overcome along the road to success, and the many we still face. I want to thank President Obama for creating, this month, a high-level White House Council on Women and Girls.

Our women's caucus, which is chaired by my friend and colleague, MARY FALLIN, is dedicated to addressing those challenges by supporting legislation and developing policies through our eight task forces. And I want to thank my sisters in the House for making history that will lift women and girls in the United States and around the world. We, as the more

privileged women of the United States of America, see ourselves as part of an international sisterhood, where women in places like the Congo are facing a weapon of war that is low cost and low tech called rape. We are concerned about our sisters here in the United States who are victims of domestic violence and discrimination in the workplace. We understand all these challenges, but we have seen women throughout history, fierce and strong women, who have stood up to those and overcome those challenges, and we want to acknowledge those women on whose shoulders we stand and to pledge in their memory to go forward on their behalf.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to my good friend from the State of Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. As a vice chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, I proudly rise today in support of House Resolution 211, honoring the contributions that women have made to history both at home and abroad.

Women have never, ever had it easy, and it is vital that as we continue to move forward, we never forget the contributions of those who came before us. Whether it was Harriet Tubman, repeatedly risking death to lead slaves through the dangers and trials of the underground railroad, or Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony organizing, against the wisdom of the day, to convince the male electorate to let women vote, over and over and over again women have stood up and demanded the rights that are due to them. And today, with so much uncertainty in our economy, it is women in households across our country who are pooling together their resources to make sure their families can eat and that their children are on time for school. So let us remember Mother Ruth, Big Mama, Aunt Peaches, and Grandma Helen.

This resolution honors the contributions that women have made through history. But it does more than that. It reminds us of the strength and dignity that we possess in even the most uncertain times, and it urges us to seek out and stamp out injustice against women and their families wherever we see it. I urge support for H. Res. 211.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I recognize my friend from Ohio, the most senior female in the House, Ms. KAPTUR, for 2 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank Chairman CLAY for moving this bill forward. I thank him for yielding me time. I want to thank Congresswoman WOOLSEY for her great leadership in introducing House Resolution 211, honoring the contributions of women across history, and certainly here in our great country. I want to thank Congressman ISSA for his support.

I also want to say that we have a long way to go. As far as we have come, we have even further to go. The majority of women's contributions in history

have never been recorded. So much of what women have lived has not even been put to pen and to page; and that is no more true than here in the House of Representatives itself.

I was so pleased the other day to walk in the main corridor on the first floor of the Capitol, and to see for the first time in history the portrait of Shirley Chisholm hung in a place where most people who travel here will actually witness the first African American woman ever to be elected to the Congress of the United States, and who campaigned for me in my very first campaign. She left in 1983.

For a very long time, indeed the first 200 years of our country, up until this last decade, the only portrait of a woman hung in this House was of Pocahontas over in the main dome of the Capitol as she saved the life of John Smith around the year 1623. But it wasn't until this last decade where we tried to get the portraits of women hung in this Capitol, and it has proved to be as hard as winning the Revolutionary War.

Mary Norton, the child of Irish immigrants, has finally been hung in the Education and Labor Committee as the first woman to chair a committee in this House, the Education and Labor Committee. She wrote the National Labor Relations Act, No Child Labor, time-and-a-half overtime, minimum wage. And for all those years, from the Great Depression until this past year, her portrait was in a closet here in the Capitol. Imagine that. Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to ever serve from the State of Montana before suffrage was even adopted, never a portrait of her. Finally, it was commissioned. We worked so hard. She is hung up on the third floor as you come off to the visitor's gallery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CLAY. I yield the gentlewoman another 30 seconds.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for that time. And, to say, when the Senate saw what we did in the House, they hung a portrait of Hattie Carraway, the first woman elected to the Senate, over on the Senate side.

So the road has been a very long road, even here inside the Capitol, which is supposed to reflect the history of the American people. We know as women, at the founding of our republic, as with slaves, we were considered three-quarters of a person, and it was not until 1920 with adoption of the 19th amendment to our Constitution were we considered full persons. And it was not until the Married Women Property Acts were passed in the State of New York in the late 1800s that in fact women began to emerge from the shackles that had held them in bondage for all of recorded history.

I congratulate my dear friend from California, Congresswoman WOOLSEY. I thank the chairman of the Committee. Thank you for bringing us into the 21st century.

Mr. CLAY. Let me first of all thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for that quick history lesson on women's history in this Capitol. I want to yield to my friend from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) for 2 minutes.

MS. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding. I rise in strong support of House Resolution 211, a resolution Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Women's History Month.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, along with many of my colleagues, and would like to thank Congresswoman WOOLSEY for introducing this legislation, recognizing the critical role women have played in shaping the Nation we are proud to call home today.

Women like the pioneers who helped settle the great plains in the West, the women who were the suffragettes working to ensure women's right to vote, the role of so many women on the home front and abroad throughout our Nation's history and serving in our Armed Forces, the important and positive influence of women across the country in the workplace, in public service, and throughout our communities.

Although we have certainly come a long way in ensuring equal treatment of women, challenges do remain. In recognition of the need to address the obstacles women still face, President Obama signed an executive order recently, creating the White House Council on Women and Girls, and I was honored to participate in the signing ceremony at the White House.

Given the number of working mothers in South Dakota, one of the highest numbers per capita in the country, and having recently become a working mother myself, I will be particularly interested in this new council's focus on this aspect of women and families. I am proud of the progress we have made to integrate the stories of heroic American women into the discussion of our Nation's history. I encourage schools and organizations across the country to participate in the celebration of National Women's History Month and make their own unique contribution to the ongoing narrative of the history of women in America.

I would like to thank again Congresswoman WOOLSEY for introducing this important resolution. I thank her for her leadership, and I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize the distinguished gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) for 2 minutes.

□ 1315

Ms. TITUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 211 and National Women's History Month, which this year celebrates women who are taking the lead to save our planet. Women have played a critical role in the fight to protect the

Earth as activists, scientists and public servants. In Nevada, many of the early environmental activists, like Tina Nappe, were women inspired to act by their childhood experiences in the beautiful Silver State. They have been joined by respected scientists, such as Dr. Peg Rees, dedicated to finding new ways to protect the desert for future generations.

As public servants, women have also made a significant contribution to saving our planet. In the Nevada legislature, for example, our women members have been ahead of their time, championing issues from renewable energy development, like Sheila Leslie, to smart growth, like Chris Giunchigliani. These many accomplishments are being documented, analyzed and disseminated to the public by the Women's Research Institute at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas under the able direction of Dr. Joanne Goodwin.

But Women's History Month is not only a month of remembrance of the important women of our past. It is an inspiration for the next generation of women and a call for them to continue the fight to leave this precious rock a better place to our children than we found it. So, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you especially, Ms. WOOLSEY, for offering this important resolution that commemorates the 22nd anniversary of National Women's History Month.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I believe today as we move this important piece of legislation recognizing Women's History Month that we realize that women have played an important part in both parties and in all the major issues of our time. Certainly when we view Susan B. Anthony through the role she played as a strong women's suffragette and as a strong advocate for women's rights, the right of life, a strong pro-life advocate, we realize that women have played an important role in political decisions, decisions of war and peace and in development of so many things in our country. And they continue to do so today.

So, I would hope that as we recognize Women's History Month, we recognize that women are just as independent in their politics, in their desires and in their beliefs as any man would ever hope to be, and that we not falsely determine that somehow women will save the planet where men won't, or that there aren't women developing innovative solutions including next generation nuclear, wind and solar, and, beyond that, solutions that haven't even been talked about on the House floor.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my friend from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 2 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of National Women's History Month.

With this year's theme of "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet," I am pleased to recognize the many women who have showed exceptional vision and leadership in the ongoing efforts to save our planet, women like Carol Browner, the White House Coordinator of Energy and Climate Policy, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, the first ever female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Eileen Collins, the first woman shuttle commander, and Nan Rich, my State senator, who just became the first female Democratic leader in the Florida State Senate in our history. These women exemplify that a woman can do any job a man can do. As we saw during the Presidential election, women like Secretary of State Hillary Clinton showed Americans that women are ready to lead.

My daughter, Rebecca, turned in her fourth grade biography report on Susan B. Anthony this week. She and I learned together about the right to vote and equal access to education for women that she fought for so valiantly but never lived to see. As the mother of two young daughters, it is so important to me that they see strong women taking the lead to repair our world.

As we look to the future and the steps that must be taken to save our planet, women can and will take the lead.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 211, a bill to support the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month.

I would like to send a tribute out to all of the women trailblazers who have contributed so much to our country. And I think St. Patrick's Day is the perfect time to remember them! I would like to begin by sending a very special thank you to former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder of Colorado; Congresswoman Carrie Meek of Florida; and Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut; and to some of the women Members who I had the honor to serve with in this body and recently passed: The Honorable Stephanie Tubbs-Jones of Ohio; The Honorable Julia Carson of Indiana; and the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald of California.

I would also like to discuss a few of the women who served as mentors to me over the years. I remember growing up in Jacksonville, back in the civil rights era in the United States. And I knew I wanted to do something—get involved in something big—to make a difference. And I was inspired by a strong willed woman, Ms. Gwendelyn Sawyer Cherry, who would stop at nothing to change the terrible ills that our society, and in particular, African Americans, were facing in that time period.

Ms. Sawyer Cherry was the first African-American woman to practice law in Dade County, Florida, and became one of the first nine attorneys who initially served at Legal Services in Greater Miami in 1966. She was elected as a state representative in 1970, becoming the first African-American woman to serve as a legislator for the State of Florida. She was elected to four terms and served until 1979.

During her term, she introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in Florida, chaired the State of Florida's committee for International

Woman's Year in 1978, and co-authored *Portraits in Color*. I thank you, Ms. Sawyer Cherry, for all you have done for our nation and for the state of Florida.

And the last woman I would like to mention is a very near and dear friend of mine; an African American woman who served with me both in the Florida state legislature and came up to Washington with me in 1993. I am referring to, of course, Ms. Carrie Meek of Miami.

The granddaughter of a slave and the daughter of former sharecroppers, she spent her childhood in segregated Tallahassee. She then went on to graduate from Florida A&M University in 1946, at a time when African Americans could not attend graduate school in Florida, so she was forced to travel North to continue her studies and ended up graduating from the University of Michigan.

Ms. Meek went on to become a Florida state representative in 1979, and was the first African American female elected to the Florida State Senate in 1982. As a state senator, Meek served on the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and her efforts in the Legislature also led to the construction of thousands of affordable rental housing units.

In 1992, Congresswoman Carrie Meek was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Florida's 17th Congressional District. This made Ms. Meek, along with myself and Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, to serve as the first black lawmakers elected to represent Florida in Congress since Reconstruction. Upon taking office, Ms. Meek was faced the extreme task of helping her district recover from Hurricane Andrew's devastation, and her efforts helped to provide \$100 million in federal assistance to rebuild Dade County.

As a powerful and hard working Member of the appropriations committee, Congresswoman Meek became a leader on issues from economic development, to health care funding, to education and housing. She also passed legislation to improve Dade County's transit system, their airport and seaport; construct a new family and childcare center in North Dade County; and fund advanced aviation training programs at Miami-Dade Community College. In recent times, the Honorable Carrie Meek has worked to become a civil rights advocate for senior citizens in the Miami area, as well for the Haitian community in South Florida.

In closing, I want to thank these pioneers, those who have led the way for our daughters today and in the future.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to celebrate March as National Women's History Month with my support of H. Res. 211, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Women's History Month."

Women make up only 17% of the 111th Congress—that is abysmal given that we make up more than 50 percent of America's population. In the private sector, women CEOs are also in the minority. According to a 2008 census by Catalyst, among fortune 500 companies, only 2.4 percent are women. We can do better. More voices of women are needed in our boardrooms, courtrooms and in the halls of Congress.

In my home state of Arizona, women have been trailblazers. This year, Arizona became the only state in the nation to have three female Governors in a row: Jane Hull, Janet Napolitano and Janice Brewer. In 1998, Arizona became the first state to elect women to all five of its top offices, dubbed the "Fab

Five." Additionally, Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court, hails from the great state of Arizona.

All of these strong, independent leaders embody the true spirit of Arizona women: self-reliant, hard-working and determined.

I also want to pay tribute to the countless organizations and coalitions that work tirelessly to improve the lives of women and girls throughout Southern Arizona.

I am proud to celebrate National Women's History Month by recognizing the increased awareness and knowledge of women's involvement in history.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. CLAY. At this time, we yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 211. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORIZING PILOT PROGRAM FOR PATENT CASES

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 628) to establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 628

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM IN CERTAIN DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a program, in each of the United States district courts designated under subsection (b), under which—

(A) those district judges of that district court who request to hear cases under which 1 or more issues arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents or plant variety protection are required to be decided, are designated by the chief judge of the court to hear those cases;

(B) cases described in subparagraph (A) are randomly assigned to the judges of the district court, regardless of whether the judges are designated under subparagraph (A);

(C) a judge not designated under subparagraph (A) to whom a case is assigned under subparagraph (B) may decline to accept the case; and

(D) a case declined under subparagraph (C) is randomly reassigned to 1 of those judges of the court designated under subparagraph (A).

(2) SENIOR JUDGES.—Senior judges of a district court may be designated under paragraph (1)(A) if at least 1 judge of the court in regular active service is also so designated.

(3) RIGHT TO TRANSFER CASES PRESERVED.—This section shall not be construed to limit the ability of a judge to request the reassignment of or otherwise transfer a case to which the judge is assigned under this section, in accordance with otherwise applicable rules of the court.

(b) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall designate not less than 6 United States district courts, in at least 3 different judicial circuits, in which the program established under subsection (a) will be carried out.

(2) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subparagraph (B), the Director shall make designations under paragraph (1) from—

(i) the 15 district courts in which the largest number of patent and plant variety protection cases were filed in the most recent calendar year that has ended; or

(ii) the district courts that have adopted local rules for patent and plant variety protection cases.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Director may only designate a court in which—

(i) at least 10 district judges are authorized to be appointed by the President, whether under section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, or on a temporary basis under other provisions of law; and

(ii) at least 3 judges of the court have made the request under subsection (a)(1)(A).

(c) DURATION.—The program established under subsection (a) shall terminate 10 years after the end of the 6-month period described in subsection (b).

(d) APPLICABILITY.—The program established under subsection (a) shall apply in a district court designated under subsection (b) only to cases commenced on or after the date of such designation.

(e) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the times specified in paragraph (2), the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the chief judge of each of the district courts designated under subsection (b) and the Director of the Federal Judicial Center, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report on the pilot program established under subsection (a). The report shall include—

(A) an analysis of the extent to which the program has succeeded in developing expertise in patent and plant variety protection cases among the district judges of the district courts so designated;

(B) an analysis of the extent to which the program has improved the efficiency of the courts involved by reason of such expertise;

(C) with respect to patent cases handled by the judges designated pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(A) and judges not so designated, a comparison between the 2 groups of judges with respect to—

(i) the rate of reversal, by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, of such cases on the issues of claim construction and substantive patent law; and

(ii) the period of time elapsed from the date on which a case is filed to the date on which trial begins or summary judgment is entered;

(D) a discussion of any evidence indicating that litigants select certain of the judicial districts designated under subsection (b) in an attempt to ensure a given outcome; and

(E) an analysis of whether the pilot program should be extended to other district courts, or should be made permanent and apply to all district courts.

(2) **TIMETABLE FOR REPORTS.**—The times referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) not later than the date that is 5 years and 3 months after the end of the 6-month period described in subsection (b); and

(B) not later than 5 years after the date described in subparagraph (A).

(3) **PERIODIC REPORTS.**—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the chief judge of each of the district courts designated under subsection (b) and the Director of the Federal Judicial Center, shall keep the committees referred to in paragraph (1) informed, on a periodic basis while the pilot program is in effect, with respect to the matters referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).

(f) **AUTHORIZATION FOR TRAINING AND CLERKSHIPS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to any other funds made available to carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated not less than \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year for—

(A) educational and professional development of those district judges designated under subsection (a)(1)(A) in matters relating to patents and plant variety protection; and

(B) compensation of law clerks with expertise in technical matters arising in patent and plant variety protection cases, to be appointed by the courts designated under subsection (b) to assist those courts in such cases.

(2) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available pursuant to this subsection shall remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will create a pilot program to help enhance district court expertise in patent cases. The United States patent system leads the world in its strength and effectiveness. For over two centuries, the incentives for innovation it supports have helped create the world's strongest economy. But to ensure that it continues to play this role, we must be mindful of whether it is working as efficiently as it could be and whether we can improve it.

In recent years, concern has arisen over the expense and duration of patent litigation, as well as the lack of consistency in the patent decisions that are handed down by district courts. This bill should help address both of those concerns. It is widely be-

lieved that the lack of experience and expertise that most district court judges have with respect to patent and plant variety protection cases is responsible for the wide divergence in their decisions in these cases and their high rate of reversal on appeal.

This bill establishes a pilot program to enable interested judges in certain district courts to gain increased expertise in adjudicating complex and technical patent and plant variety protection cases. This will create a cadre of judges who gain advanced knowledge of patent and plant variety protection through more intensified experience in handling the cases, along with special education and career development opportunities.

This should bring greater predictability in patent and plant variety protection decisions, as well as greater efficiency in the processing of all cases. The bill also sets forth reporting requirements to Congress, which will help us guide our future efforts to further improve the patent system.

H.R. 628 has bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee and broad support from the patent bar and affected industry and trade groups. In 2006 a nearly identical bill, H.R. 5418, was reported by the Judiciary Committee and passed the House under suspension. The legislation passed the House again under suspension in the last Congress.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it now.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is widely recognized that patent litigation is too expensive, too time consuming, and too unpredictable. H.R. 628 addresses these concerns by authorizing a pilot program in certain United States district courts to promote patent expertise among participating judges. The need for such a program becomes apparent when one considers that less than 1 percent of all cases in U.S. district courts are patent cases and that a district court judge typically has a patent case proceed through trial only once every 7 years. These cases require a disproportionate share of attention and judicial resources, and the rate of reversal, unfortunately, remains unacceptably high.

The premise underlying H.R. 628 is that practice makes perfect, or at least better. Judges who regularly focus on patent cases can be expected to make better decisions.

Introduced by our colleagues DARRELL ISSA and ADAM SCHIFF, this bill is identical to legislation that the House passed unanimously under suspension of the rules in the last two Congresses. H.R. 628 requires that the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts to select six district courts to participate in a 10-year pilot program that begins no later than 6 months after the date of enactment.

This bill requires the director to provide the Committees on the Judiciary

of the House of Representatives and the Senate with periodic progress reports. These reports will enable Congress and the courts to evaluate whether the pilot program is working, and, if so, whether it should be made permanent.

Mr. Speaker, this is a creative bill that will improve the application of patent law. I want to really take a moment to thank again Mr. ISSA, the gentleman from California, for this creative idea coming up with this bill, and also for his personal expertise. Mr. ISSA actually holds 37 patents, which I suspect is far more than any other Member of Congress has ever held in the history of this institution, so he knows whereof he speaks. It is no surprise he has come up with this very productive and constructive piece of legislation. And we are very pleased he is also a leader on the Judiciary Committee as well.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will control the balance of the time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) for his leadership on this bill. It has been his bill for four sessions of Congress. That tells you how much we need to do in order to do something we should have done a while ago. So I'm glad to support you on this, Mr. ISSA.

Also I thank the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. LAMONT SMITH of Texas, for his work in bringing this bill to the floor in the 111th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the honorable gentleman from California, ADAM SCHIFF.

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join in acknowledging the leadership of my colleague, DARRELL ISSA from California, in developing this bill. He has fought hard for it for several years now. We are hoping this is the time we succeed. We have a deep interest in improving the efficiency of the patent process, in taking a lot of the costs out, some of the litigation costs and the inefficiencies in the patent review, and also by improving the quality of patents. We are at present trying to work on those broader patent reforms. We hope we can succeed with those. This bill is a win-win situation. Through it, we can expand upon the knowledge and expertise of the courts that decide patent issues. We can allow the courts to identify judges that have an interest in this area and that want to engage in further education to improve the quality of decision making.

Unfortunately, these cases are often very complex. The result is that you get decisions that are too often reversed on appeal. So to the degree that we can encourage some specialization in the district courts, improve the cost quality of decisions in the court process, we can reduce costs and we can improve the process.

□ 1330

So I think that this pilot project is a very important step forward.

Again, I want to congratulate my colleague. I know how hard he has worked on this. It is good to have somebody with the experience of getting a patent himself. I have some fabulous patent ideas, multimillion-dollar ideas. I haven't gotten them patented yet. But when I do, I want to make sure that there is a good, efficient system. And should anyone have the unmitigated temerity to actually challenge one in court, I want judges who are well educated and understand that my patent is valid and any claim to the contrary is without merit.

I congratulate my colleague, thank him for his superb work, and urge my fellow colleagues to support the bill.

I rise today in support of H.R. 628, legislation that will enhance expertise in patent cases among district judges, provide district courts with resources and training to reduce the error rates in patent cases, and help reduce the high cost and lost time associated with patent litigation.

I joined my colleague Mr. ISSA in introducing this legislation because I believe this proposal will provide us with valuable and important insight on the operation of patent litigation in the federal court system.

In the 109th Congress, the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held a hearing on improving federal court adjudication of patent cases in response to high rates of reversal at the Federal Circuit. At this hearing, a number of proposed options to address this issue were discussed. Serious concerns were expressed with a number of proposals, including those that would create new specialized courts and those that would move all patent cases to existing specialized courts.

These concerns centered around the need to maintain generalist judges, to preserve random case assignment, and to continue fostering the important legal percolation that currently occurs among the various district courts. Our proposal aims to avoid these pitfalls.

H.R. 628 establishes a mechanism to steer patent cases to judges that have the desire and aptitude to hear such cases, while preserving the principle of random assignment in order to prevent forum shopping among the pilot districts.

The legislation will also provide the Congress and the courts with the opportunity to assess the program on a periodic basis. Reports will examine whether the program succeeds in developing greater expertise among participating District judges, the extent to which the program contributes to improving judicial efficiency in deciding these cases, and whether the program should be extended, expanded or made permanent.

By providing our courts with the resources they need to carefully consider patent cases,

we will ultimately save the American taxpayer money.

The legislation has been passed by the House in the 109th and 110th Congresses. We are pleased that companion legislation has been introduced by Senator SPECTER, and we hope that the other body will act on this proposal this Congress.

While this legislation is an important first step at addressing needed patent reforms, I believe that Congress must continue to work on a more comprehensive reform of our patent system. I look forward to continuing my work with my colleagues in the Judiciary Committee and in Congress to address these issues.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my partner in this bill, ADAM SCHIFF. For three Congresses in a row, we have worked together and enjoyed a luxury of riches. The bill passes unanimously on suspension, only to be not quite broad enough to appeal to some people in the Senate. I think many of those questions were worked out by agreement in the last Congress, and I believe we have a real chance of moving this bill into law in this Congress.

I thank Mr. JOHNSON and the ranking member, HOWARD COBLE, for both being cosponsors of this bill. I believe we have made some technical adjustments that will inspire not just the three districts of California, but also Massachusetts, New Jersey and some of the other major areas in which these types of legislation have run into a lot of problems, particularly the fact that we have amended the bill to support those jurisdictions which adopt local rules even if they would otherwise not be eligible that would allow for this type of specialization.

On that word, I want to make sure that everyone in the Congress understands, on both sides of the dome, that when we say specialization, we are not trying to create a specialty court; just the opposite. We are trying to save the district court as we know it. I have had a number of patents properly adjudicated both as a defendant and as a plaintiff, and what I have discovered is that the judges, given the tools at the district court level and given the opportunity to practice more frequently, or at least having at least one judge who has practiced more frequently, they will adjudicate these cases properly. They will make good Markman decisions, and they will in fact understand the nuances of patent. Without that expertise lying in each of the district courts, particularly the large ones, we undoubtedly will continue to have cases which get ping-ponged around and which get decided, unfortunately, incorrectly the first time and only decided correctly after they have come back from the Fed circuit.

So as many have called for the creation of a specialty court similar to the appellate court, the Fed circuit, we are trying here through this patent pilot to do just the opposite: to retain at the district court closest to the people the opportunity to have their pat-

ents heard, but to provide them the additional tools necessary to do it, and as was said very kindly by both Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. JOHNSON, to give them the frequency of those judges who would like to have that frequency of doing more than one case every seven years. So with that, I again urge passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how many more speakers the gentleman from California has?

Mr. ISSA. I would make myself the last speaker, if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I am prepared to close if you are.

Mr. ISSA. I yield myself 30 seconds to again recognize that this bill has passed this House overwhelmingly repeatedly. This time I believe we have perfected on a bipartisan basis with a companion, including Senator SPECTER in the Senate, the ability to move this as a separate freestanding bill quickly, and then I look forward to working particularly with ADAM SCHIFF on these many other pieces of legislation and other reforms that we have talked about at length, and of course with the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. JOHNSON.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 628, the "Patent Judges Pilot Program in Certain District Courts." I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This bill will provide more expertise in skill in a difficult area of law: patent law. Americans hold the patents and patent law as important integral to our very lives. Patents reward ingenuity and creativity.

As the Blackberry litigation demonstrated, deficiencies in the current system have the ability to paralyze America. Indeed, the New York Times noted that "[something] has gone very wrong with the United States patent system." The Financial Times opined that "[i]t is time to restore the balance of power in U.S. patent law." Indeed, there has been a cry for change in the patent system and increased expertise for many years now.

The Constitution mandates that we "promote the progress of science and the useful arts . . . by securing for limited times to . . . inventors the exclusive right to their . . . discoveries." In order to fulfill the Constitution's mandate, we, as Members of Congress, must examine the system periodically to determine whether there may be flaws in the system that may hamper innovation, including the problems described as decreased patent quality, prevalence of subjective elements in patent practice, patent abuse, and lack of qualified persons to study patent law. H.R. 628 attempts to correct some of these problems.

H.R. 628 creates a pilot program to increase the expertise of U.S. District Court judges who wish to hear cases that involve issues related to patents or plant variety protection. The bill provides for the designation of not less than 6 United States district courts in at least 3 different circuits to take part in the pilot program. In the designated courts, judges who elect to hear patent or plant variety protection cases will be designated to do so by the chief judge. Cases will be assigned randomly, but undesignated judges may decline to accept patent

and plant variety protection cases. The bill authorizes the expenditure of not less than \$5 million per year for up to 10 years to pay for the educational and professional development of designated judges, and for compensation for law clerks with technical expertise related to patent and plant variety protection cases to be appointed by the designated courts.

The high cost of patent litigation is widely publicized. It is not unusual for a patent suit to cost each party upwards of \$10 million. Appeals from United States district courts to the Federal Circuit are frequent, in part because of the perception within the patent community that most district court judges are not sufficiently prepared to adjudicate complex, technical patent cases. In 2008, 45 percent of the patent cases that were appealed to the Federal Circuit were reversed in whole or in part or vacated and remanded. This bill seeks to promote consistency among United States district courts by increasing the expertise of district court judges, thus providing for more certainty in intellectual property protection.

Taken together, these improvements would bring the American patent system up to speed for the twenty-first century. Instead of remaining a hindrance to innovation and economic growth, the patent system should work for inventors, ensuring America's patent system remains the best in the world and prevents risks to innovation.

I am encouraged by this bill, and I am hopeful that minorities and women take advantage of this pilot program. The patent judges pilot program and pilot program for law clerks provides for the educational and professional development of the designated district judges in matters relating to patent and plant variety protection, and for compensating law clerks with expertise in technical matters arising in patent and plant variety protection cases. This is yet another step that America is taking to ensure that its patent system is the best in the world. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 628.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

STOP AIDS IN PRISON ACT OF 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1429) to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1429

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE HIV/AIDS POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of Prisons (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Bureau") shall develop a comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for inmates within the correctional setting and upon reentry.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this policy shall be as follows:

(1) To stop the spread of HIV/AIDS among inmates.

(2) To protect prison guards and other personnel from HIV/AIDS infection.

(3) To provide comprehensive medical treatment to inmates who are living with HIV/AIDS.

(4) To promote HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention among inmates.

(5) To encourage inmates to take personal responsibility for their health.

(6) To reduce the risk that inmates will transmit HIV/AIDS to other persons in the community following their release from prison.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Bureau shall consult with appropriate officials of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Centers for Disease Control regarding the development of this policy.

(d) TIME LIMIT.—The Bureau shall draft appropriate regulations to implement this policy not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR POLICY.

The policy created under section 2 shall do the following:

(1) TESTING AND COUNSELING UPON INTAKE.—

(A) Medical personnel shall provide routine HIV testing to all inmates as a part of a comprehensive medical examination immediately following admission to a facility. (Medical personnel need not provide routine HIV testing to an inmate who is transferred to a facility from another facility if the inmate's medical records are transferred with the inmate and indicate that the inmate has been tested previously.)

(B) To all inmates admitted to a facility prior to the effective date of this policy, medical personnel shall provide routine HIV testing within no more than 6 months. HIV testing for these inmates may be performed in conjunction with other health services provided to these inmates by medical personnel.

(C) All HIV tests under this paragraph shall comply with paragraph (9).

(2) PRE-TEST AND POST-TEST COUNSELING.—Medical personnel shall provide confidential pre-test and post-test counseling to all inmates who are tested for HIV. Counseling may be included with other general health counseling provided to inmates by medical personnel.

(3) HIV/AIDS PREVENTION EDUCATION.—

(A) Medical personnel shall improve HIV/AIDS awareness through frequent educational programs for all inmates. HIV/AIDS educational programs may be provided by community based organizations, local health departments, and inmate peer educators. These HIV/AIDS educational programs shall include information on modes of transmission, including transmission through tattooing, sexual contact, and intravenous drug use; prevention methods; treatment; and disease progression. HIV/AIDS educational programs shall be culturally sensitive, conducted in a variety of languages,

and present scientifically accurate information in a clear and understandable manner.

(B) HIV/AIDS educational materials shall be made available to all inmates at orientation, at health care clinics, at regular educational programs, and prior to release. Both written and audio-visual materials shall be made available to all inmates. These materials shall be culturally sensitive, written for low literacy levels, and available in a variety of languages.

(4) HIV TESTING UPON REQUEST.—

(A) Medical personnel shall allow inmates to obtain HIV tests upon request once per year or whenever an inmate has a reason to believe the inmate may have been exposed to HIV. Medical personnel shall, both orally and in writing, inform inmates, during orientation and periodically throughout incarceration, of their right to obtain HIV tests.

(B) Medical personnel shall encourage inmates to request HIV tests if the inmate is sexually active, has been raped, uses intravenous drugs, receives a tattoo, or if the inmate is concerned that the inmate may have been exposed to HIV/AIDS.

(C) An inmate's request for an HIV test shall not be considered an indication that the inmate has put him/herself at risk of infection and/or committed a violation of prison rules.

(5) HIV TESTING OF PREGNANT WOMAN.—

(A) Medical personnel shall provide routine HIV testing to all inmates who become pregnant.

(B) All HIV tests under this paragraph shall comply with paragraph (9).

(6) COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT.—

(A) Medical personnel shall provide all inmates who test positive for HIV—

(i) timely, comprehensive medical treatment;

(ii) confidential counseling on managing their medical condition and preventing its transmission to other persons; and

(iii) voluntary partner notification services.

(B) Medical care provided under this paragraph shall be consistent with current Department of Health and Human Services guidelines and standard medical practice. Medical personnel shall discuss treatment options, the importance of adherence to antiretroviral therapy, and the side effects of medications with inmates receiving treatment.

(C) Medical and pharmacy personnel shall ensure that the facility formulary contains all Food and Drug Administration-approved medications necessary to provide comprehensive treatment for inmates living with HIV/AIDS, and that the facility maintains adequate supplies of such medications to meet inmates' medical needs. Medical and pharmacy personnel shall also develop and implement automatic renewal systems for these medications to prevent interruptions in care.

(D) Correctional staff and medical and pharmacy personnel shall develop and implement distribution procedures to ensure timely and confidential access to medications.

(7) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(A) Medical personnel shall develop and implement procedures to ensure the confidentiality of inmate tests, diagnoses, and treatment. Medical personnel and correctional staff shall receive regular training on the implementation of these procedures. Penalties for violations of inmate confidentiality by medical personnel or correctional staff shall be specified and strictly enforced.

(B) HIV testing, counseling, and treatment shall be provided in a confidential setting where other routine health services are provided and in a manner that allows the inmate to request and obtain these services as routine medical services.

(8) TESTING, COUNSELING, AND REFERRAL PRIOR TO REENTRY.—

(A) Medical personnel shall provide routine HIV testing to all inmates no more than 3 months prior to their release and reentry into the community. (Inmates who are already known to be infected need not be tested again.) This requirement may be waived if an inmate's release occurs without sufficient notice to the Bureau to allow medical personnel to perform a routine HIV test and notify the inmate of the results.

(B) All HIV tests under this paragraph shall comply with paragraph (9).

(C) To all inmates who test positive for HIV and all inmates who already are known to have HIV/AIDS, medical personnel shall provide—

(i) confidential prerelease counseling on managing their medical condition in the community, accessing appropriate treatment and services in the community, and preventing the transmission of their condition to family members and other persons in the community;

(ii) referrals to appropriate health care providers and social service agencies in the community that meet the inmate's individual needs, including voluntary partner notification services and prevention counseling services for people living with HIV/AIDS; and

(iii) a 30-day supply of any medically necessary medications the inmate is currently receiving.

(9) OPT-OUT PROVISION.—Inmates shall have the right to refuse routine HIV testing. Inmates shall be informed both orally and in writing of this right. Oral and written disclosure of this right may be included with other general health information and counseling provided to inmates by medical personnel. If an inmate refuses a routine test for HIV, medical personnel shall make a note of the inmate's refusal in the inmate's confidential medical records. However, the inmate's refusal shall not be considered a violation of prison rules or result in disciplinary action.

(10) EXCLUSION OF TESTS PERFORMED UNDER SECTION 4014(B) FROM THE DEFINITION OF ROUTINE HIV TESTING.—HIV testing of an inmate under section 4014(b) of title 18, United States Code, is not routine HIV testing for the purposes of paragraph (9). Medical personnel shall document the reason for testing under section 4014(b) of title 18, United States Code, in the inmate's confidential medical records.

(11) TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF TEST RESULTS.—Medical personnel shall provide timely notification to inmates of the results of HIV tests.

SEC. 4. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW.

(a) SCREENING IN GENERAL.—Section 4014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “for a period of 6 months or more”;

(2) by striking “, as appropriate,”; and

(3) by striking “if such individual is determined to be at risk for infection with such virus in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Bureau of Prisons relating to infectious disease management” and inserting “unless the individual declines. The Attorney General shall also cause such individual to be so tested before release unless the individual declines.”.

(b) INADMISSIBILITY OF HIV TEST RESULTS IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 4014(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or under the Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009” after “under this section”.

(c) SCREENING AS PART OF ROUTINE SCREENING.—Section 4014(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “Such rules shall also provide

that the initial test under this section be performed as part of the routine health screening conducted at intake.”.

SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORT ON HEPATITIS AND OTHER DISEASES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau shall provide a report to the Congress on Bureau policies and procedures to provide testing, treatment, and prevention education programs for Hepatitis and other diseases transmitted through sexual activity and intravenous drug use. The Bureau shall consult with appropriate officials of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Centers for Disease Control regarding the development of this report.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) GENERALLY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and then annually thereafter, the Bureau shall report to Congress on the incidence among inmates of diseases transmitted through sexual activity and intravenous drug use.

(2) MATTERS PERTAINING TO VARIOUS DISEASES.—Reports under paragraph (1) shall discuss—

(A) the incidence among inmates of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, and other diseases transmitted through sexual activity and intravenous drug use; and

(B) updates on Bureau testing, treatment, and prevention education programs for these diseases.

(3) MATTERS PERTAINING TO HIV/AIDS ONLY.—Reports under paragraph (1) shall also include—

(A) the number of inmates who tested positive for HIV upon intake;

(B) the number of inmates who tested positive prior to reentry;

(C) the number of inmates who were not tested prior to reentry because they were released without sufficient notice;

(D) the number of inmates who opted-out of taking the test;

(E) the number of inmates who were tested under section 4014(b) of title 18, United States Code; and

(F) the number of inmates under treatment for HIV/AIDS.

(4) CONSULTATION.—The Bureau shall consult with appropriate officials of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Centers for Disease Control regarding the development of reports under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friends, JOHN CONYERS, the chair-

man of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. LAMAR SMITH, ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, and Mr. BOBBY SCOTT, chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. Their staffs worked closely with my staff in a bipartisan manner when we drafted this bill 2 years ago, introduced it as H.R. 1943, reported it favorably and passed it on suspension. And they have been strong supporters of it ever since.

More than a quarter century has passed since AIDS was first discovered, yet the AIDS virus continues to infect and kill thousands of Americans every year. Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, released new estimates of HIV infection which proves that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is even worse than we thought. The new estimates indicate that approximately 56,300 new infections occurred in the United States in 2006. This figure is approximately 40 percent higher than CDC's previous estimates of 40,000 new infections every year.

Here in our Nation's capital, health officials just announced that the HIV infection rate has reached 3 percent. That is 2,984 residents per every 100,000 over the age of 15, or 15,120 right here in our capital. This is a rate that exceeds the 1 percent threshold for a severe epidemic, and compares to severely impacted nations in West Africa. This announcement made the headlines in Sunday's Washington Post.

We need to take the threat of HIV/AIDS seriously, and we need to confront it in every institution in our society. That includes our Nation's prison system.

In 2005, the Department of Justice reported that the rate of confirmed AIDS cases in prisons is three times higher than in the general population. The Department of Justice also reported that 2 percent of State prison inmates and 1.1 percent of Federal prison inmates were known to be living with HIV/AIDS in 2003. However, the actual rate of HIV infection in our Nation's prisons is still unknown because prison officials do not consistently test prisoners.

In January of this year, the Journal of the National Medical Association published an article by Dr. Nina Harawa and Dr. Adaora Adimora on “Incarceration, African Americans and HIV: Advancing a Research Agenda.” The article confirmed that individuals at high risk for incarceration also tend to be at high risk for HIV infections. Incarcerated populations have a high prevalence of characteristics associated with HIV infection. These characteristics include low socioeconomic status, drug use, multiple sex partners, and histories of sexual abuse and assault.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009 requires the Federal Bureau of Prisons

to develop comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for inmates in Federal prisons. This legislation will combat and prevent the continued spread of HIV and AIDS among prison populations and the community at large.

Mr. Speaker, there are about 200,000 prisoners in the Federal prison system, but the incidence of HIV and AIDS in the prison system is difficult to measure because not all prisoners are routinely tested.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the prison population, like the population of America as a whole, includes prisoners who are HIV positive and do not know it. In 2006, a report by the U.S. Department of Justice estimated that over 1 percent of Federal inmates were known to be infected with HIV. The United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have historically defined an HIV epidemic as occurring when the overall percentage of disease among residents of a specific geographic area exceeds 1 percent. That means that the percentage of prisoners who carry the HIV/AIDS virus may have reached epidemic proportions.

The occurrence of HIV and AIDS cases in Federal prisons is at least three times higher among prison inmates than it is among the United States population as a whole.

H.R. 1429 requires routine testing of all Federal prison inmates upon entry and prior to release. For all existing inmates, testing will be required within 6 months of enactment. This reasonable requirement will enable prison officials to reduce HIV/AIDS among inmates and provide counseling, prevention, and health care services for inmates who are infected with the disease.

For those prisoners tested when they enter prison, testing will ensure that they receive adequate treatment, education, and prevention services while incarcerated. Similarly, it is important that prisoners are tested shortly before release into the community so adequate services can be coordinated for the prisoners after release. That in turn will protect the community that they then reside in.

I believe in thorough punishment for criminal offenders because the public deserves to be protected; but we have a duty to treat prisoners humanely and to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, not just within the prison populations, but to the populations they return to.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee and particularly Congresswoman WATERS for her work on this legislation. She has led the way, she has pushed hard, and she, with Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH, bring this bill today with broad bipartisan support. As was said earlier, this bill passed by suspension in the last Congress, and we would hope that it passes early and is signed into law at the earliest possible date. H.R. 1429 remains an important

piece of legislation yet undone by this Congress from the previous Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Harawa's and Dr. Adimora's article also pointed out that incarceration could provide a window of opportunity for reaching at-risk individuals and providing them testing, treatment, and prevention services for HIV and AIDS. Unfortunately, these services are not consistently available in the correctional system.

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HIV testing is not required upon entry and prior to release from Federal prisons, nor is testing required in most State prisons.

Treatment for HIV/AIDS in the correctional system is often limited by lack of expertise among prison health providers and inadequate access to HIV pharmaceuticals.

Finally, HIV prevention programs are not available in a consistent or complete fashion throughout the entire correctional system. That is why we need to pass the Stop AIDS in Prison Act today. The Stop AIDS in Prison Act requires the Federal Bureau of Prisons to develop a comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for inmates in Federal prisons.

This bill requires the Bureau of Prisons to test all prison inmates for HIV upon entering prison and again prior to release from prison unless the inmate absolutely opts out of taking the test. Inmates who test positive will be given comprehensive treatment during their incarceration and referrals to services in the community prior to release. All inmates, regardless of their test results, will be given HIV prevention education.

We are honored to have the support of many of the prominent HIV/AIDS advocacy organizations for the Stop AIDS in Prison Act. These include; AIDS Action, The AIDS Institute, the National Minority AIDS Council, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the HIV Medicine Association, the Latino Commission on AIDS, AIDS Project Los Angeles, Bienestar, a Latino community service and advocacy organization, and the AmASSI National Health and Cultural Centers, another community service and advocacy organization. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, which has been severely impacted by HIV/AIDS, has also expressed support for this bill.

In conclusion, the Stop AIDS in Prison Act will help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS among prison inmates, encourage them to take personal responsibility for their health, and reduce the risk that they will transmit HIV/AIDS to other persons in the community following their release from prison.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have been involved, especially my colleague from California who is on the floor today in support of this legislation.

I would urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think the gentlelady made such a good point that, in fact, we have an obligation to recognize that individuals will return to our community, and they need to return healthier than they came in. So the requirements in this bill, both for testing on the way in and testing on the way out of prison, are so important.

Mr. Speaker, under Governor Pete Wilson, I had the honor to serve on his prison board for the Prison Work Program. What I discovered in prison is exactly what the gentlelady from California is alluding to, that we often incarcerate without doing the other things that should be done—education programs, work programs, drug and alcohol detoxing programs, and, yes, recognizing that good physical and mental health are essential, that we have to make sure that people who are being prepared to leave prison are being prepared to not return to prison.

So I join with the gentlelady in support of this effort, like so many others that she has championed over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 13½ minutes remaining.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from California, the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. I thank the gentlelady for yielding. But also, let me thank you for making sure that we stayed on point as it relates to HIV/AIDS. And I have to just stop and take a minute and help recall some of this history.

Actually, when I was first elected in 1998, you were chairing the Congressional Black Caucus at that point. And you recognized what this HIV/AIDS epidemic was doing in our country, especially in the African American community.

I remember you called a meeting—I think you gave us maybe 2 or 3 days, but the seriousness of this warranted that. People came from all over the country. And we talked about what we needed to do, and we sounded the alarm.

Under your leadership, we developed the Minority AIDS Initiative. And I must say, you insisted then that it be comprehensive, and it must be complete, and it must be funded. I believe at that point we were able to get maybe \$150, \$157 million; drop in the bucket, maybe, but yes, it was a major step in the right direction. We are still trying to get up to \$650 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative.

But having said that, let me just say, in terms of the comprehensive nature

of what we talked about then and what you insisted on, we said that any AIDS strategy had to be seen from the perspective of prevention, care, and treatment. In fact, we talked about the disproportionate numbers of African Americans being infected and affected and how the resources should be targeted to the communities in most need.

Fast forward to Toronto, Canada, to the HIV/AIDS International Conference. And I'll never forget this—and I have to say this because today is really a milestone, I think, in Congresswoman WATERS' work around this—we were there with the NAACP, we were there with all of our black AIDS organizations. And you whispered to me, you said, I'm getting ready to do something that's very controversial; some folks may not like it, but are you with me? I said, "Yes, ma'am." You said, "We're going to do a mandatory testing bill." And we talked about it. And you made it public at that conference, and you said you were not going to rest until this is done. You talked about the bill in concept, in terms of stopping AIDS in prison, because you were talking about the rates of infection with regard to African American women and what is taking place in prisons and how all of our heads really are in the sand about this, we just didn't want to deal with it at all. But you were determined that all of us—the NAACP, all of our groups—were going to deal with it. Some said it was going to be impossible to do because of mandatory testing requirements. We talked about how to deal with that, and you found a way, and that is, by allowing anyone who wants to opt out to opt out.

I always have to say, Congresswoman WATERS, that you always insist on doing this work—if we have to do it out of the box, we will, but where there is a will, there is a way. I think today really just demonstrates that where there is a will, there is a way. And with the bipartisan support now on H.R. 1429, with our President supporting the development of a national AIDS strategy and a national AIDS plan, I have a lot of hope.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. WATERS. I yield to the gentlelady as much time as she may need to continue this wonderful talk she's giving.

Ms. LEE of California. I have to say I am really excited today because I have a lot of hope. When you look at the numbers in the District of Columbia, for instance, what, 33 percent new infections for African American women? When you look at what is happening around the country and when you look at the disproportionate rates of African American men in prison, you can't help but be thankful today that this bill is on the floor, and with bipartisan support we're going to move it off the floor. Because I think that if we really are being for real about tackling this, we have got to do it, and we have got to require what this bill requires in our prisons.

I just have to say today, on behalf of my constituents, where we declared a state of emergency in 1999 in the African American community in Alameda County, on behalf of the entire country, thank you very much. It is a very hopeful day.

I urge support of this bill, and look forward to our continuing work and getting it to President Obama's desk so he can sign this into law.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I am pleased to be original co-sponsor of H.R. 1429, the "STOP AIDS in Prison Act of 2009."

The Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009 requires the federal Bureau of Prisons to develop a comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment and prevention for inmates in federal prisons.

This legislation will combat and prevent the continued spread of HIV and AIDS among the prison population and the community at large.

There are about 200,000 prisoners in the federal system. But, the incidence of HIV and AIDS in the prison population is difficult to measure because not all inmates are routinely tested.

In a 2006 report, the Justice Department estimated that over one percent of federal inmates were known to be infected with HIV. The United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have historically defined an HIV epidemic as occurring when the overall percentage of disease among residents of a specific geographic area exceeds one percent.

That means that the percentage of prisoners who carry the HIV/AIDS virus may have reached epidemic proportions.

The occurrence of HIV and AIDS cases in federal prison is at least three times higher among prison inmates than it is among the United States population as a whole.

H.R. 1429 requires routine HIV testing for all federal prison inmates upon entry and prior to release. For all existing inmates, testing is required within six months of enactment.

This reasonable requirement will enable prison officials to reduce HIV/AIDS among inmates and provide counseling, prevention, and health care services for inmates who are infected with the disease.

For those prisoners tested when they enter prison, such testing will ensure that they receive adequate treatment, education and prevention services while incarcerated.

Similarly, it is important that prisoners are tested shortly before release into the community so that adequate services can be coordinated for the prisoner after release. That, in turn, will protect the community.

I believe in tough punishment for criminal offenders because the public deserves to be protected. But we have a duty to treat prisoners humanely and to rehabilitate them.

To me, preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS among prisoners is an essential part of humane treatment and rehabilitation.

I would like to thank my colleague on the Judiciary Committee, Congresswoman WATERS, for her work on this legislation. Ms. WATERS and I worked together on earlier versions of this bill in previous sessions of Congress. She has been an energetic partner in this effort.

I would also like to thank Chairman CONYERS for helping bring this legislation to the House floor today.

As my colleagues will recall, the House passed a version of this bill last Congress by voice vote. The bill was placed on the legislative calendar of the Senate, but it was never acted upon. It is my hope that the Senate will pass H.R. 1429 during this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1429, "Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009." I want to thank my colleague Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS of California for introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1429, which designed to address the growing impact that HIV/AIDS is having on minority communities. According to the Black AIDS Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics reveal that African Americans account for half of all new HIV/AIDS cases. Racial and ethnic minorities comprise 69 percent of new cases, according to the 2005 data released by the CDC. African-American women account for the majority of new AIDS cases among women (67 percent in 2004); whereas white women account for 17 percent and Latinas 15 percent. The CDC estimates that 73 percent of all children born to HIV infected mothers in 2004 were African American. HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death among African Americans ages 25 to 44—deadlier than heart disease, accidents, cancer, and homicide.

The CDC reported that Hispanics accounted for 18 percent of new diagnoses reported in the 35 areas with long-term, confidential name-based HIV reporting in the United States, and that most Hispanic men were exposed to HIV through sexual contact with other men, followed by injection drug use and heterosexual contact; and that most Hispanic women were exposed to HIV through heterosexual contact, followed by injection drug use.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, African Americans made up 41 percent of all inmates in the prison system at the end of 2004. Since African Americans are disproportionately represented in jails and prisons, the Stop AIDS in Prison Bill is one way to begin addressing this problem.

The "Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009" directs the Bureau of Prisons to develop a comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for inmates in federal prisons and upon reentry into the community. The bill would require initial testing and counseling of inmates upon entry into the prison system and then ongoing testing available up to once a year upon the request of the inmate, or sooner if an inmate is exposed to the HIV/AIDS virus or becomes pregnant. Furthermore, the Bureau of Prisons will be required to make HIV/AIDS counseling and treatment available to prisoners, and give testing and treatment referrals to prisoners prior to reentering the community. The bill protects the confidentiality of prisoners, and allows prisoners to refuse routine HIV testing.

Finally, the bill contains a requirement that the Bureau of Prisons report to Congress, no later than one year after enactment, the number of inmates who tested positive for HIV upon intake; the number of inmates who tested positive prior to reentry; the number of inmates who were not tested prior to reentry because they were released without sufficient notice; the number of inmates who opted-out of taking the test; the number of inmates who

were tested following exposure incidents; and the number of inmates who were under treatment for HIV/AIDS.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1429 because we must reverse these costly trends. Currently, the only cure we have for HIV/AIDS is prevention.

Had the bill gone through regular and been marked up, I was planning on offering an amendment that would permit those infected with HIV to elect, on their own volition, to be housed separate from the general population as long as the prison had the facilities. This way, those infected with HIV could be housed in safety.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is indeed a state of emergency in the African-American and Hispanic community. We must use all resources necessary to defeat this deadly enemy that continues to devastate the minority community. As Americans, we have a strong history, through science and innovation, of detecting, conquering and defeating many illnesses. We must and we will continue to fight HIV/AIDS until the battle is won.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1429, "Stop AIDS in Prisons Act of 2009," and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, incarceration rates in the United States have skyrocketed through the years. Approximately 2.3 million Americans are incarcerated and more than 1 in 100 American adults were incarcerated just at the start of 2008. Although the actual rates of HIV/AIDS infections in our nation's prisons are not known due the fact that current prison officials do not consistently test their prisoners; we see how this epidemic is effecting our nation and especially devastating the African American community.

An estimated 20 percent–26 percent of all Americans living with HIV/AIDS are incarcerated at some point and are frequently incarcerated during the course of their disease. Persons at risk for incarceration are more likely than others in our nation to be at high risk for HIV/AIDS infections especially related to risky behavioral practices and characteristics. These risk characteristics include minimal education, drug use, low socioeconomic status, multiple sex partners, a high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, and histories of sexual abuse and assault. This also renders those in prison who are infected to become vulnerable to a whole range of other diseases. In custody HIV transmission occur through sexual activity, needle-sharing for drug injection, tattooing with unsterilized equipment, and contact with blood or mucous membranes through violence.

Incarceration is a crisis among African Americans. Research and data show that African Americans are disproportionately more likely than any other racial and ethnic group to be at risk for incarceration. In fact African Americans constitute just 13 percent of the American population but make up 44 percent of all prison and jail inmates. I am sure it is not surprising to see the correlation between this statistic and also the statistics that show that African Americans account for the majority of new AIDS cases, the majority of new HIV infections, and the majority of HIV deaths. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in incarcerated men and women is 3–5 times that of the general population.

Particularly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in incarcerated populations are African

American women. The most astounding news is that prisons are the only setting in the United States where HIV prevalence is higher in females than in males, with approximately 2.6 percent of female and 1.8 percent of male state prison inmates known to be HIV infected. Further, African-American women make up two-thirds of newly reported HIV cases in females overall and 34 percent of all female inmates' cases.

In attempt to counter many assumptions, a number of published case studies and a smaller number of retrospective cohort studies have described cases of HIV transmission in U.S. inmates that occurred during incarceration. These studies only suggest that the incarcerated population needs to be fully included in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts. There must be a change in people's attitudes and the way we promote positive health initiatives through our federal prison systems.

I, therefore, rise today in strong and unwavering support of H.R. 1429, The Stop AIDS in Prison Act, which would require routine HIV testing for all federal prison inmates upon entry and prior to release from prison, provide inmates with education and treatment, and reduces the risks they may pose of transmitting HIV/AIDS to others in their communities after their release.

We all should support H.R. 1429 and ensure that incarcerated and ex-offender populations have access to adequate and realistic HIV prevention methods, receive voluntary and confidential HIV testing and are rolled into adequate HIV/AIDS-related care, treatment and services.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for rushing to the floor to participate in the presentation of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1429.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN "BUD" HAWK POST OFFICE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 955) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 955

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOHN "BUD" HAWK POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, shall be known and designated as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the U.S. Postal Service, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 955, a bill to designate the U.S. postal facility located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office."

Introduced by Representative JAY INSLEE on February 10, 2009 and reported out of our full committee by voice vote on March 10, 2009, H.R. 955 enjoys the support of the State of Washington's entire House delegation.

A long time resident of Bremerton, Washington, Sergeant John "Bud" Hawk received the Medal of Honor, the U.S. military's highest commendation, from President Harry S. Truman on July 13, 1945. Following his military career, Sergeant Hawk continued his devotion to public service by serving as a longtime educator in Bremerton, Washington.

In April of last year, Sergeant Hawk was again honored for his bravery during World War II as he was presented with a Medal of Honor flag at Olympia's Capitol Rotunda by Brigadier General Gordon Toney, Commander of the Washington Army National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Hawk's service stands as a testament to the brave men and women that have served and continue to serve our Nation at home and abroad. And it is my hope that we can further honor this distinguished veteran through the passage of H.R. 955.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office Building."

Bud Hawk embodies, in every sense, the word "hero." In June of 1945, President Truman placed a Congressional Medal of Honor around John "Bud" Hawk's neck on the Capitol steps in Olympia in his home State of Washington. With this bill, we are honoring John again, this time in the Nation's Capitol, and this time not only for his heroic efforts in World War II, but for his lifetime of service.

John first earned the Nation's gratitude and respect during World War II when his heroism was instrumental in destroying two enemy tanks and forcing the surrender of more than 500 enemy combatants in August of 1944.

Sergeant Hawk showed fearless initiative and heroic conduct, even while suffering from a painful wound. Under heavy enemy fire, John ran back and forth toward the enemy in order to give the American tanks correct targeting directions. John sacrificed his already wounded body to act as a human firing director for the American tanks. His action came at the end of the Battle of Normandy. In gratitude for his help in the liberation of their country, John was awarded France's Legion of Honor in 2007. John also received four Purple Hearts for four separate times he was wounded during his enlistment.

But John's heroics did not end when he returned home from World War II. A longtime teacher and principal in Bremerton, Washington, he has been a familiar face who has had tremendous impact on countless schoolchildren in his community. To this day, he remains a personal hero of his students for the humility and strength of character that he has instilled. That strength of character and humility is embodied in John Hawk and is, today, the reason that we recognize him as a hero and Medal of Honor recipient, and a lifetime hero to children in his home community.

□ 1400

I urge my colleagues to support this bill that demonstrates our gratitude for the life and contribution of John "Bud" Hawk, from his heroics in the battlefield to one might say his heroics in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 4 minutes to my good friend from the State of Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I would commend this resolution to the House. This really is a great American story of truly a great American hero.

John "Bud" Hawk is a son of Rollingbay, Washington. He grew up playing with his sister around the post office we're about to name in his honor in the little community of Rollingbay, Washington. And he's a fellow who answered the Nation's call in the 1940s and was a hero in the 1940s, but was a hero for several decades to the students he educated. And I just want to com-

mend him for both of those acts of heroism.

My colleagues have talked about why he won the Congressional Medal of Honor, and I have to tell you if you actually read this, you would be mightily impressed by a fellow who on one day at the Battle of the Falaise Gap essentially with his machine gun squad destroyed two enemy tanks while he was already severely wounded and, after he was severely wounded, leading to the surrender of hundreds of German prisoners, still refused medical treatment. He was a hero several times in 1 day, and he was then injured three more times during World War II, and we still honor him for that.

But I want to just highlight something that he earned not in 1 day but he earned the honor and affection of hundreds, if not thousands, of people in our community.

After he got back from World War II, he came home and got a degree in biology. He worked for 7 years to do that, and he started teaching fifth and sixth grade, first at Tracyton Elementary in Bremerton and later at nearby Brownsville Elementary. He eventually became a teaching principal and taught classes while he was running the school. He served 31 years as an educator and retired in 1983 as principal of Woodlands Elementary in Bremerton.

And I just want to read something that a lot of people feel in our community of Bainbridge and Bremerton, something a former student of Mr. Hawk's wrote in a University of Washington Alumni magazine, recalling 1 year he spent as Mr. Hawk's student. This former student wrote:

"Ascribe it to my then youthful impressionableness, if you will, but John Hawk was then and remains still a personal hero of mine for the humanity and strength of character he taught his students, along with the more mundane subjects of math, science, and history. I count myself fortunate to have spent that year as his student. And I relish the opportunity all these years later to say what I at age 11 didn't know to say: For both a year of education and for your lifetime of service to your country and to humanity, thank you, Mr. Hawk."

So on this day of honoring Mr. Hawk by naming the Rollingbay Post Office in his honor, we want to say thank you, Mr. Hawk.

I know Mr. ISSA noted the bagpipes we heard just a few moments ago. They were honoring a great Irishman who's now President, President Barack Obama. All of the Irish are celebrating John "Bud" Hawk's celebration. There is a young lad, a young Irishman, named Brody in Bainbridge Island. He's honoring Bud.

Thank you, Mr. Hawk. And thank you for the country in passing this resolution.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say from the "O'Issas" to the "Obamas," everyone is an Irishman here today. I'm sure there isn't anyone

who isn't Irish here today. Perhaps a few with orange but most with green.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 955.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 955.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REDUCING INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS ACT

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1323) to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1323

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Information Control Designations Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to increase Governmentwide information sharing and the availability of information to the public by standardizing and limiting the use of information control designations.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO REDUCE AND MINIMIZE INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS.—Each Federal agency shall reduce and minimize its use of information control designations on information that is not classified.

(b) ARCHIVIST RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) REGULATIONS.—The Archivist of the United States shall promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations under this subsection shall address, at a minimum, the following:

(A) Standards for utilizing the information control designations in a manner that is narrowly tailored to maximize public access to information.

(B) The process by which information control designations will be removed.

(C) Procedures for identifying, marking, dating, and tracking information assigned the information control designations, including the identity of officials making the designations.

(D) Provisions to ensure that the use of information control designations is minimized and cannot be used on information—

(i) to conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error;

(ii) to prevent embarrassment to Federal, State, local, tribal, or territorial governments or any official, agency, or organization thereof; any agency; or any organization;

(iii) to improperly or unlawfully interfere with competition in the private sector;

(iv) to prevent or delay the release of information that does not require such protection;

(v) if it is required to be made available to the public; or

(vi) if it has already been released to the public under proper authority.

(E) Provisions to ensure that the presumption shall be that information control designations are not necessary.

(F) Methods to ensure that compliance with this Act protects national security and privacy rights.

(G) The establishment of requirements that Federal agencies, subject to chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, implement the following:

(i) A process whereby an individual may challenge without retribution the application of information control designations by another individual.

(ii) A method for informing individuals that repeated failure to comply with the policies, procedures, and programs established under this section could subject them to a series of penalties.

(iii) Penalties for individuals who repeatedly fail to comply with the policies, procedures, and programs established under this section after having received both notice of their noncompliance and appropriate training or re-training to address such noncompliance.

(H) Procedures for members of the public to be heard regarding improper applications of information control designations.

(I) A procedure to ensure that all agency policies and standards for utilizing information control designations that are issued pursuant to subsection (c) be provided to the Archivist and that such policies and standards are made publicly available on the website of the National Archives and Records Administration.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In promulgating the regulations, the Archivist shall consult with the heads of Federal agencies and with representatives of State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; law enforcement entities; organizations with expertise in civil rights, employee and labor rights, civil liberties, and government oversight; and the private sector, as appropriate.

(c) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The head of each Federal agency shall implement the regulations promulgated by the Archivist under subsection (b) in the agency in a manner that ensures that—

(1) information can be shared within the agency, with other agencies, and with State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, and the public, as appropriate;

(2) all policies and standards for utilizing information control designations are consistent with such regulations;

(3) the number of individuals with authority to apply information control designations is limited; and

(4) information control designations may be placed only on the portion of information that requires control and not on the entire material.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Inspector General of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Archivist, shall randomly audit unclassified information with information control designations. In conducting any such audit, the Inspector General shall—

(1) assess whether applicable policies, procedures, rules, and regulations have been followed;

(2) describe any problems with the administration of the applicable policies, procedures, rules and regulations, including specific non-compliance issues;

(3) recommend improvements in awareness and training to address any problems identified under paragraph (2); and

(4) report to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Archivist, and the public on the findings of the Inspector General's audits under this section.

(b) PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes described in paragraph (2), the Archivist of the United States shall require that, at the time of designation of information, the following shall appear on the information:

(A) The name or personal identifier of the individual applying information control designations to the information.

(B) The agency, office, and position of the individual.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) To enable the agency to identify and address misuse of information control designations, including the misapplication of information control designations to information that does not merit such markings.

(B) To assess the information sharing impact of any such problems or misuse.

(c) TRAINING.—The Archivist, subject to chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, and in coordination with the heads of Federal agencies, shall—

(1) require training as needed for each individual who applies information control designations, including—

(A) instruction on the prevention of the overuse of information control designations;

(B) the standards for applying information control designations;

(C) the proper application of information control designations, including portion markings;

(D) the consequences of repeated improper application of information control designations, including the misapplication of information control designations to information that does not merit such markings, and of failing to comply with the policies and procedures established under or pursuant to this section; and

(E) information relating to lessons learned about improper application of information control designations, including lessons learned pursuant to the regulations and Inspector General audits required under this Act and any internal agency audits; and

(2) ensure that such program is conducted efficiently, in conjunction with any other security, intelligence, or other training programs required by the agency to reduce the costs and administrative burdens associated with the additional training required by this section.

(d) DETAILEE PROGRAM.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR PROGRAM.—The Archivist, subject to chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, shall implement a detailee program to detail Federal agency personnel, on a nonreimbursable basis, to the National Archives and Records Administration, for the purpose of—

(A) training and educational benefit for agency personnel assigned so that they may better understand the policies, procedures, and laws governing information control designations;

(B) bolstering the ability of the National Archives and Records Administration to con-

duct its oversight authorities over agencies; and

(C) ensuring that the policies and procedures established by the agencies remain consistent with those established by the Archivist of the United States.

(2) SUNSET OF DETAILEE PROGRAM.—Except as otherwise provided by law, this subsection shall cease to have effect on December 31, 2012.

SEC. 5. RELEASING INFORMATION PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

(a) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The head of each Federal agency shall ensure that—

(1) information control designations are not a determinant of public disclosure pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Freedom of Information Act”); and

(2) all information in the agency's possession that is releasable is made available to members of the public pursuant to an appropriate request under such section 552.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent or discourage any Federal agency from voluntarily releasing to the public any unclassified information that is not exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Freedom of Information Act”).

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS.—The term “information control designations” means information dissemination controls, not defined by Federal statute or by an Executive order relating to the classification of national security information, that are used to manage, direct, or route information, or control the accessibility of information, regardless of its form or format. The term includes, but is not limited to, the designations of “controlled unclassified information”, “sensitive but unclassified”, and “for official use only”.

(2) INFORMATION.—The term “information” means any communicable knowledge or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, is produced by or for, or is under the control of the Federal Government.

(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency” means—

(A) any Executive agency, as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) any military department, as that term is defined in section 102 of such title; and

(C) any other entity within the executive branch that comes into the possession of classified information.

SEC. 7. DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

Regulations shall be promulgated in final form under this Act, and implementation of the requirements of this Act shall begin, not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. I would like to thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1323, the Reducing Information Control Designations Act, introduced by Representative DRIEHAUS, is an important piece of legislation that will improve public access to unclassified information. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill.

This week has been designated as Sunshine Week, and this bill will help bring more sunshine to the Federal Government. Our democracy requires that citizens be able to access information about how their government is working and how it is spending their tax dollars. This bill is the latest step that the Oversight Committee has taken to advance that goal.

In January we passed bills to open up presidential records and information on presidential libraries. The stimulus package requires that all spending information be posted online at recovery.gov, and we are holding a hearing on Thursday to examine how the transparency provisions of the stimulus bill are being implemented. And we are moving forward to obtain information from all Wall Street banks that receive bailout money, including AIG, on how they are spending that money, especially the bonuses. What these Wall Street firms need to understand is that if they are being supported by the taxpayers, which they are, sunshine applies to them also, and we will make that happen.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DRIEHAUS) for taking the lead on this bill and the Chair of the Information Policy Subcommittee, Mr. CLAY, for all his work on bringing sunshine to the government. I also want to thank the ranking member, Mr. ISSA, for working together with us on these sunshine bills.

President Obama has indicated repeatedly that we need more transparency in our government. In almost every speech, he has indicated that. I agree with that goal. And this bill is an important step towards it.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. And, of course, on that note I would like to just commend the gentleman from Missouri and, of course, the gentleman from California for their outstanding work.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, often we bring a bill under suspension that's considered not to be overly important. This one is just the opposite. Transparency in government is an effort that has to be ongoing, and this is an important step. This solution has to be government-wide in order to be effective.

For too long, Mr. Speaker, the Federal departments have insisted on

treating information that develops within their agency in a restricted fashion. We need to have government-wide solutions that make the maximum amount of information possible available to the public, and even if it is not available to the public, it must be classified at the most appropriate and lowest level in order to ensure its sensitive treatment.

For that reason I support, with the chairman, this piece of legislation that will reduce or eliminate the proliferation of terms such as "sensitive but unclassified" or "for official use only," designations which essentially mean nothing but clearly cause trepidation in the release of documents. Many organizations under the Freedom of Information Act have had to deal with redaction of these comparatively and usually meaningless terms.

So I join with the gentleman from Ohio, the chairman of the full committee, and the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. CLAY, in asking that this important piece of legislation be moved under suspension because, although important, it is not controversial and its time has come.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. ISSA, for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize one of our newest members on the committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DRIEHAUS) for 5 minutes. And, by the way, this is his inaugural bill on the floor, so I want to congratulate him too.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. A happy St. Patrick's Day to you, Mr. Speaker.

I very much appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Missouri and certainly the comments of Mr. ISSA from California as well as our chairman. This is an important issue, and I appreciate having the support of both the ranking member and the chairman of the committee as we move forward on the Government Reform and Oversight Committee in really looking at how documents are classified in the United States Government.

As was mentioned by the chairman, this is Sunshine Week. And Sunshine Week is about shining the bright light on government to help people better understand what decisions are being made on their behalf because the information is the people's information.

But when we look at the records and we look at the classification of documents in the Federal Government, we find confusion. Since 1979 there have been six separate GAO reports talking about the over-classification of documents; yet nothing has been done by Congress to address this growing problem. Today there are over 107 different classifications. Some of these are official classifications, some of these are pseudo-classifications of documents in every administrative body in the Federal Government.

This bill is about the systemic issue of over-classification and the existence

of these pseudo-classifications within the government. The citizens of our Nation have an inherent right to the information that the government collects so long as it's not of a sensitive nature. The bill promotes transparency and government efficiency by promoting a common language within government. It was introduced by Congressman WAXMAN last year, who was chairing the committee, and passed this House without objection.

Specifically, the bill has several components. It instructs the Archivist to create regulations that control what is classified and how it would be classified with the input of agency stakeholders. It provides training for agency employees who classify information. It calls for random audits of these materials by Inspectors General to ensure compliance. It requires personal identifiers to be placed on classified information in order to track and uphold regulations. And it restricts information from being classified that is not of a sensitive nature.

Essentially, Mr. Speaker, what this bill does is it allows the agencies of our government to not only talk with each other, but it allows the people to have access to the information and the decisions being made by their government.

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It is an important step in the right direction. I would only give you one example to prove the point.

In 2008, and I think this was enlightening, there were over 362,000 requests under the Freedom of Information Act to the Federal Government; 121,833 of those requests still remain to be processed, and that is because of overclassification of documents.

It's not about documents of a sensitive nature not being turned over to the public, it is about making information available to the public in an easier fashion. That's what this bill is about.

I appreciate the support of the chairman and the ranking member.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes. I join with the gentleman in his comments and would only anecdotally tell you that this is the tip of the iceberg, and this committee is dedicated to drilling down deeply.

We want to know where our money has gone for TARP, we want to know where stimulus money is spent, both at the contractor and subcontractor level and beyond. We want to make sure that America's taxpayer dollars are well taken care of and transparent.

I will share with you something that perhaps you hadn't known, and that is that our government inflicts more wounds than you have yet seen, and you are going to see more in your time. Just last year I visited a location in Nevada, and since I was flying into Las Vegas people said, "Oh, are you going to Area 51?" I had been cautioned that I could not use that term, that that term was unacceptable. So I said, "Well, I can't tell you. I am just going to Nevada." So then when I returned I

googled Area 51, and, of course, I saw detailed maps or detailed photos of everything, including the airfield that perhaps someone would land at, well into that Nevada test range which Google identifies as Area 51.

So I would say that if the gentleman and, of course, the Chair, would continue to work with us on all these matters, we will, on a bipartisan basis, drill down to try to prevent these prohibitions on that, which certainly flies in the face of common sense.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1323, the Reducing Information Control Designations Act.

This bill is being considered with an amendment to address some concerns that have been raised with the provision in the bill requiring incentives for individuals who successfully challenge the information control designation. This amendment strikes the language requiring incentives but continues to require a process through which individuals can challenge the information control designation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1323 promotes transparency and government efficiency by promoting a common language within government. Therefore, I urge swift passage of the bill.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1323, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW P. PATHENOS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1216) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1216

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW P. PATHENOS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield,

Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand and join my colleagues from my home State of Missouri for the consideration of H.R. 1216, which names a postal facility in Chesterfield, Missouri, after Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos.

As stated, H.R. 1216 has the support of the entire House congressional delegation from Missouri but is sponsored by my friend, Representative Todd Akin. The bill was introduced on February 26 of 2009 and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee by voice vote on March 10.

As a member of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces and Reserve out of Bridgeton, Missouri, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Matthew Pathenos enlisted in military service with the hope of helping those who could not help themselves.

Unfortunately, on February 7, 2007, Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos was killed while conducting combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq. In recognition of Corporal Pathenos' commitment to country and the concept of freedom, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in commemorating the life of this brave Marine by supporting the passage of H.R. 1216.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the Lance Corporate Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building.

Marine Lance Corporal Pathenos was a selfless patriot. He was a loving brother, son and friend. As one of his comrades in arms once reflected, "The best thing about Matt was his ability to wake up every day with a smile and hold it all day long." Even through the hardships of war, Matt strove to bring joy to his friends.

A native of Ballwin, Missouri, Matt was an avid golfer and accomplished pilot, earning his flying license at age 14. After graduating from high school in 2003, Matt followed in the footsteps of his older brother and mentor, Marine Sergeant Christopher Pathenos, who had enlisted in the Armed Forces in the wake of September 11.

In the words of one relative, "For Matty, the motivation was more about Christopher, seeing how the Corps treated him."

As a member of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, Matthew was one of 80 Marine members of his unit that were attached to a sister unit, the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, for deployment to Iraq in September of 2006.

Tragically, on February 6, 2007, Lance Corporal Pathenos lost his life near Fallujah when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device. His family will always remember him as a smiling young man who "sang as though no one could hear him and danced as though no one was watching him."

In a release shortly after the tragic loss, the family captured the sentiments of a grateful Nation. "Like his brother, Christopher, Matthew was proud to be a Marine and volunteered to serve his country. Matthew paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and the future generations of this country. He loved his country and family, and we will miss him terribly."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the chairman and myself in support of this courageous young man and the sacrifice he gave by naming the post office in his honor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Again, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. AKIN, for introducing such a thoughtful measure.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of renaming the Town and Country Commons Post Office in Chesterfield, Missouri, after Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos by passing H.R. 1216.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1216, a bill I introduced to honor the life of Matthew P. Pathenos by designating the post office in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building." A resident of Ballwin, Missouri, Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos was part of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, of the Marine Forces Reserve. On February 7th, 2007, Lance Corporal Pathenos was killed during combat operations in the Anbar province of Iraq. Matthew was often described by family and friends as a friendly young man who always had a joke to tell and a smile on his face. Matthew decided to join the military in order to follow his older brother into his country's service with the hope of helping those who could not help themselves. Matthew's then girlfriend, Erin, calls Lance Corporal

Pathenos her hero, and wishes she might one day, “posses a fraction of his bravery and discipline.”

As the father of two Marines, one of whom has served in Iraq; it is a privilege to stand here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Matthew's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our nation has to offer. His and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free but the result of the tremendous bravery and selfless service of men and women willing put themselves in harms way for freedom's cause.

Our nation will be forever indebted to Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos.

Vote “yes” on H.R. 1216.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1216.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1541) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1541

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109–316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 110–235 (122 Stat. 1552), is amended by striking “March 20, 2009” in each place it appears and inserting “July 31, 2009”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on March 19, 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As our Nation responds to the current economic downturn, small businesses will be central to our recovery. They are the engine of our economy, producing 60 to 80 percent of new jobs, and their role is even more important during recessions.

The fact is, when the job market is tight, many Americans venture out, launch their own enterprises. Following the recession of the early 1990s, small firms generated 3.8 million new positions for American workers, a number that surpassed big business expansion by almost half a million.

That kind of resilience, in the face of economic uncertainty, is a testament to the strength of our Nation. Times may be tough, but the American entrepreneurial spirit is tougher. Today, the House is considering legislation that will extend programs at the Small Business Administration into July.

These programs play a pivotal role in our economy. The SBA guarantees loans that allow new ventures to start and existing firms to grow. It provides counseling and technical know-how to entrepreneurs, and it helps ensure that small firms can obtain their fair share of Federal contracts, something that will be more important as the Economic Recovery Act generates \$111 billion worth of new public works projects.

Extending these programs is important, but we must not lose sight of a larger goal. Later this Congress we will pass legislation to modernize the SBA and change the agency's culture. In these difficult economic times, we will need an SBA that can respond effectively. This will require extensive reforms.

Already in this Congress we passed the most significant update to the agency in a decade. With the economic recovery legislation, we made SBA bank loans more affordable for entrepreneurs. We increased the amount of a loan that the SBA can back, further opening up affordable credit for small business owners.

We established a new Small Business Stabilization Financing Program at the SBA, which will provide short-term loans to businesses struggling to meet their existing obligations. We gave the SBA tools it needs to begin unfreezing the secondary market for small business loans.

□ 1430

By reforming and updating the Small Business Investment Company pro-

gram, we help channel new venture capital to small firms.

Taken together, all of these initiatives will yield \$21 billion in new investment and lending for small businesses and save or create 600,000 new jobs.

Earlier this week, President Obama moved to implement many of these changes. I applaud the administration for working quickly. However, this is just the start.

Later this year, the committee will draft a comprehensive rewrite of the SBA. If there has ever been a time for a strong, effective SBA, that time is now. It will be the responsibility of every Member in this House to make sure that we reauthorize these programs properly so the SBA can help Main Street businesses weather this recession and contribute to our economy.

The extension we are voting on today will give us the time to hear from all our colleagues and interested parties as we develop this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1541. The bill is very simple. It extends the authorization of all programs operated or authorized by the Small Business Act, the Small Business Investment Act, and any program by the Small Business Administration for which Congress has already appropriated funds. The extension will last until July 31 of this year.

This extension is necessary because the authorization for various programs operated by the SBA ceases on March 20. The Committee has worked in a bipartisan fashion in the last Congress, and we reported out a number of bills to address programs operated by the SBA. Despite the efforts of the House, time in the last Congress expired before the legislative process could run its course.

The work needed to help America's entrepreneurs revitalize the economy simply can't be accomplished by Friday of this week.

Without the enactment of this extension, a number of vital programs that the SBA operates will cease to function. Given the importance that small businesses play, and will continue to play in the revitalization of the American economy, we cannot allow the SBA authorizations to run out.

Enactment of this extension will enable the House and Senate to work in a diligent manner to address the necessary changes to SBA programs. I urge all of my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1541.

I reserve the balance of my time.

VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. As President Obama said recently, “small businesses are the heart of the American

economy." They are responsible for half of all private-sector jobs, and they've created about 70 percent of all new jobs in the past 10 years.

We need to build our economy from the ground up, create stable jobs, and foster innovation that will lead to long-term growth. To do this, we need to support the small high-tech companies that grow our economy.

The Federal Government supports these innovative small businesses through the Small Business Innovative Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, which help companies commercialize Federally funded research. The programs now distribute more than \$2.5 billion each year and constitute the largest tech-transfer commercialization programs that we have in the Federal Government.

However, these programs must be updated to reflect the current innovation environment. Award sizes should be increased to reflect inflation and the growth of operating costs; the issue of venture capital participation needs to be resolved; flexibility must be instilled between phase one and phase two grants; and data collection needs to be improved so that we can better target the program and determine its effectiveness.

Last year, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 5819, which made these necessary changes based on suggestions from hearings in my Technology and Innovation Subcommittee and in conjunction with our work with Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member GRAVES. However, good legislation, once again, died in the other Chamber.

Today, we find the House needing to pass an extension to keep these programs alive. This extension is necessary because the SBA and SBIR serve important purposes. But, moving forward, if we are to continue realizing the full value of programs like SBIR, we must reauthorize them with changes that reflect the evolving innovation environment, rather than simply extending the current authorization. It must be an innovation program as well as a jobs and small business program.

At a time when credit is tight and jobs are scarce, SBIR and STTR can have a significant role in jump-starting our economy. The House and Senate need to pass legislation this year that will reauthorize these programs, innovate new products and services, support small businesses, and create well-paying jobs for decades to come.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1541.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953, and has a current business loan portfolio of roughly 220,000 loans worth more than \$50 billion, which makes it the largest single financial backer of U.S. businesses. My district is home to these businesses, many of which are struggling to hang tough in this trying economy.

In the 110th Congress, several short-term SBA authorization measures were enacted;

the latest was signed into law on May 23, 2008. Under that law, authorization for SBA programs is scheduled to expire on March 20. I am hopeful that President Obama continues the recognition and support for small businesses that he demonstrated yesterday. His leadership, along with that of my colleague NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ on these issues could not come at a more important time.

Small business is frequently viewed as an incubator for employment and economic growth, and is a continuing legislative and oversight concern for Congress due to its constitutional role, through the interstate commerce and general welfare clauses, to promote economic well being and prosperity.

While many analysts believe a very significant percentage of the nation's jobs are created by small businesses, others note that a great many small businesses fail every year thereby eliminating jobs.

The 111th Congress is likely to consider many small business issues as it debates reauthorization the many Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that are scheduled to expire in 2009. Our small business owners need certainty to plan for the future and I will continue to work hard for a more permanent solution to complement the authorizations that many businesses have to endure.

A primary issue in the reauthorization is likely to be the cost to the government of various small business assistance programs. The Bush Administration had proposed that certain loan programs be cut back or eliminated, that borrowers in the SBA's basic loan program be charged higher fees, and that interest rates for disaster loans rise to market levels after five years. I hope that a full review of these policies is underway by the new administration.

Ways to insure that small businesses benefit from economic stimulus programs are likely to be considered. Finding ways for small businesses to provide health insurance to employees could be vital in getting elements of the business community to be actively supporting and working with Congress as we press ahead with legislation on health care. I understand that we in Congress cannot run your businesses for you. I just want to be there to help fashion fair and reasonable legislation that affects small business.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes Small Business Administration programs and authority through July 31 and again it is my hope that we continue to engage the business community as this Congress seeks to move America from recession back to prosperity.

Mr. GRAVES. I would, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1541.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1541.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 240, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 211, de novo; and

H.R. 628, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes. Remaining votes on outstanding postponed motions to suspend the rules will be taken later.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 128]

YEAS—421

Ackerman	Bright	Courtney
Aderholt	Broun (GA)	Crenshaw
Adler (NJ)	Brown (SC)	Crowley
Akin	Brown, Corrine	Cuellar
Alexander	Brown-Waite,	Culberson
Altmire	Ginny	Cummings
Andrews	Buchanan	Dahlkemper
Arcuri	Burgess	Davis (AL)
Austria	Burton (IN)	Davis (CA)
Baca	Butterfield	Davis (IL)
Bachmann	Buyer	Davis (KY)
Bachus	Calvert	Davis (TN)
Baird	Camp	Deal (GA)
Baldwin	Campbell	DeFazio
Barrett (SC)	Cantor	DeGette
Barrow	Cao	Delahunt
Bartlett	Capito	DeLauro
Barton (TX)	Capps	Dent
Bean	Capuano	Diaz-Balart, L.
Becerra	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, M.
Berkley	Carnahan	Dicks
Berman	Carney	Dingell
Berry	Carson (IN)	Doggett
Biggert	Carter	Donnelly (IN)
Bilbray	Cassidy	Doyle
Bilirakis	Castle	Driehaus
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Duncan
Bishop (NY)	Chaffetz	Edwards (MD)
Bishop (UT)	Chandler	Edwards (TX)
Blackburn	Childers	Ehlers
Blumenauer	Clarke	Ellison
Blunt	Clay	Ellsworth
Boccheri	Cleaver	Emerson
Boehner	Clyburn	Engel
Bonner	Coble	Eshoo
Bono Mack	Coffman (CO)	Etheridge
Boozman	Cohen	Fallin
Boren	Cole	Farr
Boswell	Conaway	Fattah
Boucher	Connolly (VA)	Filner
Boyd	Conyers	Flake
Brady (PA)	Cooper	Fleming
Brady (TX)	Costa	Forbes
Braley (IA)	Costello	Fortenberry

Foster
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack

Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pollis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Moore (WI)
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tiberti
Tierney
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggett
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Abercrombie
Boustany
Dreier
Hincey
Lucas
Miller, Gary
Olson
Putnam
Shea-Porter
Welch
NOT VOTING—10

□ 1507

Mr. BILIRAKIS changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 211.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 211.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 418, noes 0, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 129]

AYES—418

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggett
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)

Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Drieaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth

Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham

LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pollis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Radanovich

Rahall
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Levin
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Wittman	Wu	Young (FL)
Wolf	Yarmuth	
Woolsey	Young (AK)	

NOT VOTING—13

Abercrombie	Lucas	Ryan (OH)
Boustany	Miller, Gary	Shea-Porter
Dreier	Olson	Welch
Gohmert	Putnam	
Hinchey	Rangel	

□ 1515

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING PILOT PROGRAM FOR PATENT CASES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 628.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 628.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 409, noes 7, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 130]

AYES—409

Ackerman	Boucher	Coble
Aderholt	Boyd	Coffman (CO)
Adler (NJ)	Brady (PA)	Cohen
Akin	Brady (TX)	Cole
Alexander	Braley (IA)	Conaway
Altmire	Bright	Connolly (VA)
Andrews	Broun (GA)	Conyers
Arcuri	Brown (SC)	Cooper
Austria	Brown, Corrine	Costa
Baca	Brown-Waite,	Costello
Bachmann	Ginny	Courtney
Bachus	Buchanan	Crenshaw
Baird	Burgess	Cuellar
Baldwin	Burton (IN)	Culberson
Barrett (SC)	Butterfield	Cummings
Barrow	Buyer	Dahlkemper
Bartlett	Calvert	Davis (AL)
Barton (TX)	Camp	Davis (CA)
Bean	Campbell	Davis (IL)
Becerra	Cantor	Davis (KY)
Berkley	Cao	Davis (TN)
Berman	Capito	Deal (GA)
Berry	Capps	DeFazio
Biggert	Capuano	DeGette
Bilbray	Cardoza	Delahunt
Bilirakis	Carnahan	DeLauro
Bishop (GA)	Carney	Dent
Bishop (NY)	Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bishop (UT)	Carter	Diaz-Balart, M.
Blackburn	Cassidy	Dicks
Blumenauer	Castle	Dingell
Blunt	Castor (FL)	Doggett
Boccheri	Chaffetz	Donnelly (IN)
Boehner	Chandler	Doyle
Bonner	Childers	Driehaus
Bono Mack	Clarke	Edwards (MD)
Boozman	Clay	Edwards (TX)
Boren	Cleaver	Ehlers
Boswell	Clyburn	Ellison

Ellsworth	Lee (CA)	Reyes
Emerson	Lee (NY)	Richardson
Engel	Levin	Rodriguez
Eshoo	Lewis (CA)	Roe (TN)
Etheridge	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (AL)
Fallin	Linder	Rogers (KY)
Farr	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)
Fattah	LoBiondo	Rohrabacher
Filner	Loebbeck	Rooney
Fleming	Lofgren, Zoe	Ros-Lehtinen
Forbes	Lowey	Roskam
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Ross
Foster	Luján	Rothman (NJ)
Frank (MA)	Lungren, Daniel E.	Roybal-Allard
Franks (AZ)		Royce
Frelinghuysen	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Fudge	Mack	Rush
Gallegly	Maffei	Ryan (OH)
Garrett (NJ)	Maloney	Ryan (WI)
Gerlach	Marchant	Salazar
Giffords	Markey (CO)	Sanchez, Linda T.
Gingrey (GA)	Markey (MA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Gohmert	Marshall	Sarbanes
Gonzalez	Massa	Scalise
Goodlatte	Matheson	Schakowsky
Gordon (TN)	Matsui	Schauer
Granger	McCarthy (CA)	Schiff
Graves	McCarthy (NY)	Schmidt
Grayson	McCaul	Schock
Green, Al	McClintock	Schrader
Green, Gene	McCollum	Schwartz
Griffith	McCotter	Scott (GA)
Grijalva	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Guthrie	McGovern	Sensenbrenner
Hall (NY)	McHenry	Serrano
Hall (TX)	McHugh	Sessions
Halvorson	McIntyre	Sestak
Hare	McKeon	Shadegg
Harman	McMahon	Sherman
Harper	McMorris	Shimkus
Hastings (FL)	Rodgers	Shuler
Hastings (WA)	McNerney	Simpson
Heinrich	Meek (FL)	Sires
Heller	Meeks (NY)	Skelton
Hensarling	Melancon	Slaughter
Hерger	Mica	Smith (NE)
Herseeth Sandlin	Michaud	Smith (NJ)
Higgins	Miller (FL)	Smith (NC)
Hill	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Himes	Miller (NC)	Smith (WA)
Hinojosa	Miller, George	Snyder
Hirono	Minnick	Souder
Hodes	Mitchell	Space
Hoekstra	Mollohan	Speier
Holden	Moore (KS)	Spratt
Holt	Moore (WI)	Stark
Honda	Moran (KS)	Stearns
Hoyer	Moran (VA)	Stupak
Hunter	Murphy (CT)	Sullivan
Inslee	Murphy, Patrick	Sutton
Israel	Murphy, Tim	Tanner
Issa	Murtha	Tauscher
Jackson (IL)	Myrick	Taylor
Jackson-Lee	Nadler (NY)	Teague
(TX)	Napolitano	Terry
Jenkins	Neal (MA)	Thompson (CA)
Johnson (GA)	Neugebauer	Thompson (MS)
Johnson, E. B.	Nunes	Thompson (PA)
Johnson, Sam	Nye	Thornberry
Jones	Oberstar	Tiahrt
Jordan (OH)	Obey	Tiberi
Kagen	Olver	Tierney
Kanjorski	Ortiz	Titus
Kaptur	Pallone	Tonko
Kennedy	Pascarella	Towns
Kildee	Pastor (AZ)	Tsongas
Kilpatrick (MI)	Paulsen	Turner
Kilroy	Payne	Upton
Kind	Pence	Van Hollen
King (IA)	Perlmutter	Visclosky
King (NY)	Perriello	Walden
Kingston	Peters	Walz
Kirk	Peterson	Wamp
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Petri	Wasserman
Kissell	Pingree (ME)	Schultz
Klein (FL)	Pitts	Waters
Kline (MN)	Platts	Watson
Kosmas	Poe (TX)	Watt
Kratovil	Polis (CO)	Waxman
Kucinich	Pomeroy	Weiner
Lamborn	Posey	Westmoreland
Lance	Price (GA)	Wexler
Langevin	Price (NC)	Whitfield
Larsen (WA)	Radanovich	Wilson (OH)
Larson (CT)	Rahall	Wilson (SC)
Latham	Rangel	Wittman
LaTourette	Rehberg	
Latta	Reichert	

Wolf	Wu	Young (AK)
Woolsey	Yarmuth	Young (FL)

NOES—7

Duncan	Johnson (IL)	Paul
Flake	Lummis	
Fox	Manzullo	

NOT VOTING—15

Abercrombie	Hinchey	Putnam
Boustany	Inglis	Shea-Porter
Crowley	Lucas	Shuster
Dreier	Miller, Gary	Velázquez
Gutierrez	Olson	Welch

□ 1523

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 130, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. COURTNEY, Connecticut

Mr. COBLE, North Carolina

CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1512 OF STROM THURMOND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-25)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify to the Congress that the export of fine grain graphite to be used for solar cell applications and for the fabrication of components used in electronic and semiconductor fabrication, and two dual-motor, dual-shaft mixers to be used to produce carbon fiber and epoxy prepregs for the commercial airline industry is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from these exports,

will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 17, 2009.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, obviously I rise to commemorate some special days, St. Patrick's Day to all of my wonderful Irish friends all over the Nation, and certainly to perpetuate the wonderful relationship that we have with the great nation of Ireland.

At the same time, we have the opportunity to celebrate supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month, and I thank my good friend, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, for offering H. Res. 211, supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month.

There is so much we can say as part of the great history of the women of this country and around the world, but we all should note that women express and exhibit a very special part of American history.

Today, women account for 51 percent of the world's population, and throughout women's time, we have had countless sisters of brilliance. And so I salute them today and say we must stand for the cause of pay equity, and I am excited that one of the first bills that the President signed was pay equity.

I am also excited to note that I offered legislation to support the placement of Sojourner Truth, a suffragette and an abolitionist, in the House of the United States Capitol, and that will be done.

Let me close by simply thanking all of the great women of this Nation, Barbara Jordan and others, for what they have done and what they have contributed to America's history.

HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM-CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, human lives should never be sacrificed for the promotion of science. The very purpose of science is to uphold and protect life. We cannot in one breath say we want to advance science in order to save lives, and in the next support science that devalues the life of the smallest and most defenseless humans. All human life is sacred.

The alternatives to embryonic stem-cell research are vast. There is no reason to force taxpayers to fund research that will destroy human life because the advances we are seeing from adult stem-cell research hold tremendous promise.

To date, there have been 73 treatments for disease ethically using adult forms of stem-cell research while embryonic stem-cell research has failed to provide a single treatment.

There is no one in this Chamber who does not wish to see science advance. But as we progress, we must be mindful that science is best when it is used within ethical boundaries. In our quest for progress, if we compromise the morals that support us, what good will our so-called progress be then?

OUT-OF-CONTROL SPENDING MUST STOP

(Mr. LUETKEMEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, families and small businesses all across our country are making sacrifices, yet our government continues to spend like a drunken sailor. And how does Washington propose paying for all this spending? With more tax increases on hardworking families and small businesses, the very businesses that are crucial generators of job creation and economic growth.

The President's budget includes the largest tax increase in history, shouldering our families and small businesses with the cost of an ever-expanding government. Tax increases on small businesses will stifle job creation and economic growth at the very moment our country needs a strong and robust small-business sector to help us get back on solid ground.

The President's cap-and-trade program will increase the cost of energy for all Americans and place a tax of about \$3,000 per household in my district for this very program. Hardworking families and businesses all across my district and America are asking: What is going on in Washington? Does it have a clue how we work hard and how we earn our money and what we are doing with it?

This out-of-control spending must stop.

□ 1530

CONGRATULATING CARROLLTON HIGH SCHOOL LADY TROJANS ON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a very talented group of girls from Carrollton, Georgia. The Carrollton High School Girls Basketball team—or the Lady Trojans—defeated a very talented Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe team 51-31 to claim the Class AAA Georgia High School Association State title this weekend.

The Lady Trojans found themselves down at the half, 24-23. However, Carrollton's defense, led by Karisma Boykin—always helps to have cha-

risma, Mr. Speaker—stole the show in the second half, keeping the explosive Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe offense scoreless in the third quarter and allowing only seven points in the fourth quarter. As they say, defense wins championships.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the other thing that wins championships, of course, is hard work and determination, and there was no shortage of that from Carrollton Coach Shon Thomaston and the Lady Trojans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Carrollton High School Lady Trojans on their State championship, as well as all of their hard work that got them there.

PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED ABOUT AIG BONUSES

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the President showed some real anger about the bonuses that were paid to AIG executives. The problem is, he either knew they were getting the bonuses or he should have because every one of the spending bills that came through this House went through a conference committee, and the White House was deeply involved in what was put in those conference committee reports.

The stimulus package, the TARP bill, every single bill that gave money to AIG and to others went through the scrutiny of the White House. The President is up there today saying, "Oh my gosh, this is terrible," and he shows real anger. Well, if he didn't know about it, he should have; and if he did know about it, he shouldn't be raising Cain about it.

THE REAL AIG OUTRAGE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker mentioned the outrage about the bonuses to AIG. That's not the real outrage. The real outrage is that taxpayers have given AIG \$173 billion, and this amount of money was then used to funnel out to other financial institutions.

After months of government stonewalling, on Sunday night AIG officially acknowledged where most of the taxpayer funds had been going. Since September 16, AIG has spent \$120 billion in cash, collateral, and other payments to banks, municipal governments, and other derivative counterparties around the world. This also includes \$20 billion to European banks. We never intended for this money to go overseas; the taxpayers thought it was going to AIG.

This list also includes American charity cases like Goldman Sachs,

which received \$13 billion. This comes after months of claims by Goldman Sachs themselves that they did not need the money. Then why take it?

Mr. Speaker, that's the real AIG outrage.

AIG SHOULD PAY BACK EVERY CENT THEY SPENT ON BONUSES

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was as shocked as all Americans were to learn about AIG, the recipient of more than \$170 billion of taxpayer money, paying out more than \$165 million in bonuses to its executives. Where I come from, when you run your company into the ground, you get fired, you do not get a bonus.

Seventy-three people at AIG received bonuses of more than \$1 million; that includes one bonus of \$6.4 million, six more who received more than \$4 million each. Eleven people received retention bonuses, that is, bonuses specifically designed to keep valuable employees from leaving the company. Well, you know what? They have already left the company—take the retention bonus and then leave; all this from a company that is 80 percent owned by the taxpayer. The people of the United States are not going to stand for this behavior from these people; neither would I, neither should this House.

AIG should pay back every cent they spent on “performance bonuses,” and the only reward they should get for their performance is a pink slip.

FORT DUPONT ICE HOCKEY CLUB

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the first annual Lawmakers versus Lobbyists Charity Hockey Game took place 2 weeks ago on Friday, March 6. The game was played at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex, the practice facility of the NHL's Washington Capitals.

The game was a fundraiser for the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club of Washington, D.C. The club is a developmental program that provides local, inner-city youth with an opportunity to participate in an organized ice hockey program.

More than \$25,000 was raised for this organization. The Lawmakers team was led by Senator JOHN KERRY, Congressman ANTHONY WEINER—who played goalie with his cat-like reflexes—Congressman PATRICK MURPHY, and me. Also, Bob Fisher, the assistant manager of the Cloak Room, participated in the Members' team.

The Lobbyists were led by Nick Lewis and Jeffrey Kimbell. Lobbyist Captain Nick Lewis and Lawmaker Captain Tim Regan squared off for the ceremonial opening face-off.

The Lawmakers won a hard-earned 6–4 victory in this inaugural contest. The

real winners, however, Mr. Speaker, of this game were the kids from the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club.

I yield to Mr. MURPHY.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it was a great charity event.

There are a lot of challenges facing our country right now where our focus is, but we took time out for the kids to make sure that we raised money. These kids could not afford to play the game of hockey, which really demonstrates and embodies the sense of teamwork and goal setting. It was great to be with those kids, with the first African American NHL player, who was also there. And I would also like to highlight the cooperation of the Washington Capitals.

I would like to say that our colleague from New York (Mr. WEINER), who got the puck of the game, who was our goaltender, a lot of folks did say that he had cat-like reflexes. He reminded me of a young Mike Richter, who most folks understand is a New York Ranger, won the World Cup for Team America that was played at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia. But Mike Richter is from the suburbs of Philadelphia, and I was proud of that comparison of ANTHONY WEINER to Mike Richter. I sometimes question the athletic ability of Mr. WEINER, but that day he really showed his skill.

Mr. WEINER. Will the gentleman yield so I may defend myself?

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I will yield.

Mr. WEINER. First of all, let me join with my colleagues in expressing the gratitude that we all have to the organizers that helped raise so much money for these kids that play in the inner city. They scarcely have rinks, unlike in Buffalo and some of our communities. It was really a terrific program. I'm glad we were able to do it.

“Lobbyists” is a dirty word in this town now—and sometimes they played a little dirty on the ice, but we will put that aside because the result was the same.

I just want to say, being a great hockey player in Congress is kind of like being the one-eyed man in the land of the blind; I'm not sure it says all that much. But I want to thank Congressman HIGGINS—who I believe scored two goals; I learned that by watching the news reports and hearing him say it again and again throughout his quotes—and also you, Mr. MURPHY. I have never seen a hockey player skate that slowly, but somehow you managed to get to every puck.

This is a great cause. Let's hope that we do it every 10 or 12 years or so because that's how long it takes us all to recover. I thank you very much for what you have done, and I thank you for persuading me to play in the game. It is true, I am cat-like in the crease. I curl up in a ball and just sleep through the game while you guys did the hard work.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC POLICY: SPEND, BORROW AND TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's new economic policy is real simple; spend a lot of money, borrow a lot of money, and tax everybody, all in an effort to make the United States a country like socialist France. And the method to pay for these high-dollar programs that the administration is now funding is to tax everything, especially energy.

The first part of the “tax energy plan” is to tax energy consumption. Now we understand that every homeowner in the United States will be taxed approximately \$3,000 a year every year for the consumption of energy in that home. So every time you turn on the lights, you turn up the taxes. You use a little bit of heat to keep warm in the winter, you're going to pay the heat tax, all in an effort to bring revenue in for these high-dollar programs.

There are more ideas to tax energy. One is to increase the gasoline tax—not that we aren't paying enough for gasoline already, now we're going to pay 10 cents more a gallon in the gasoline tax. We use gasoline, we're going to give the government more money.

And then, thirdly, there is the mileage tax that is being proposed. What that means, Mr. Speaker, is for every mile you drive somewhere in the fruited plain, the government is going to track you with GPS, and at the end of the day you are going to get taxed on mileage tax. Being tracked by GPS by the Federal Government sounds a little bit like Big Brother out of “1984” to me.

Contrary to some places in the United States, where I come from we don't have mass transit. We don't have choo-choo trains that run and take everybody to work. I have an area made up predominantly of rice farmers, suburban areas, petrochemical areas, and we don't have high-dollar trains like the one that is being built from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, or from La La Land to Fantasy Land. People have to drive work trucks, that's what they drive, but now they are going to be taxed for driving. And of course that is taxing the American worker and the consumer.

And now there are going to be new energy taxes on energy companies—you know, those mean old energy companies that produce energy to keep the lights on in this place and other places, and so we can drive our vehicles and

that sort of thing. But the energy companies are going to pass that tax on to the rest of us. And what that means, you cut through all the taxes, because of the new energy tax on energy companies, every American is going to add 41 cents to their gasoline; in other words, that's passed on to us. You add on the mileage tax, you add on the 10-cent tax for using gasoline, and now we've got another 41 cents that will be passed on to the American consumer.

Now the new cap-and-trade idea—it really should be called cap-and-tax—is sending energy companies packing their bags. Mr. Speaker, what I mean by that is, they're leaving town. The taxes are too high. They're not going to stay here any longer. It's been reported by different media sources that the new country, the new place for energy companies to move is a place called Zug, Switzerland. You've probably never heard of it. You have to look it up on a map to find it. But the tax rate for corporations in that area of Switzerland is 9 percent. The corporate tax in the United States on those energy companies is 35 percent. No wonder they're leaving town. They can't afford to do business in the United States.

□ 1545

The U.S. energy companies are going someplace else because of the overwhelming tax structure here.

Mr. Speaker, the answer is not to tax more but to allow more energy production, novel thought that that is. Rather than run energy companies out of town, maybe we ought to let them expand in the Outer Continental Shelf. That would actually create thousands of American jobs. We wouldn't be sending money overseas to OPEC. We'd keep that money in the United States. We'd keep the lease revenue that those oil companies have to pay for to get that oil out of the Outer Continental Shelf. We'd keep that lease revenue in the United States. And we'd also keep the tax revenue in the United States.

But, Mr. Speaker, the new French economic plan is tax anything that produces in this country, and now we're going to tax energy out of the energy business, including consumers that use energy. I guess next year, Mr. Speaker, we'll all wonder why we're just freezing in the dark because we don't have any energy because it all left town.

And that's just the way it is.

SECURITY CHALLENGES ARISING FROM THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, students of history know that hyperinflation in Germany was a significant factor in the rise of Hitler. The economic decay of the Soviet Union led to

regime change across Eastern Europe. And a serious economic crisis preceded the French Revolution. So the record is clear that economic crises can have consequences for national security of the highest order. Here in the United States, our economic strength has always been the foundation of our national power and our national security. Economics plays no less important a role in the fate of many other nations.

Knowing this, the House Armed Services Committee decided to explore how the current global financial crisis is affecting national security by holding a hearing last week with a distinguished panel of economic and national security experts. We had been working to hold such a hearing since November, but the urgency of this effort was only emphasized when the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Dennis Blair, stated in this annual threat assessment that the global financial crisis represents the primary near-term concern for U.S. national security. During our hearing, we learned more about the many ways the world has been thrown into serious turmoil by this sudden global shock and that many if not most of the international consequences are yet to come.

We learned that, at a minimum, the global financial crisis will exacerbate an already growing set of political and economic challenges facing the world. In country after country, the crisis is increasing citizen discontent and anger toward their leaders and providing an excuse for authoritarian regimes to consolidate their power. It distracts and strains our allies and generates conditions that could provide fodder for terrorism. Financial turmoil can loosen the fragile hold that many countries have on law and order and increase the number and size of ungoverned spaces.

While most of the experts we heard from agree that the strongest economies will weather this storm, it is the fragile states that worry me the most. Emerging democracies throughout Eastern and Central Europe, Africa, and Asia will turn to the Western world for support. If we cannot or do not help them, they may be forced into economic alliances of necessity with long-term consequences. When Iceland recently turned without success to its friends in the West, it found a "new friend" in Russia. Jamaica has received significant financial assistance from China. The list of countries in critical regions in need of such assistance is long indeed. Economic pressures within European countries might even become so severe as to seriously weaken or unravel the ties that bind the countries of the European Union and NATO Alliance together.

Perhaps most serious, at a time when U.S. leadership is sorely needed, our international credibility is at an unprecedented low. The crisis is causing the emerging nations to question the Western model of market capitalism. Flawed policies, poor decisions, weak

regulation, and questionable behavior have led to a widespread perception that American-style capitalism is unsustainable. This perception may be the most corrosive effect of the current crisis.

Mr. Speaker, our response to the global economic crisis must be far reaching and far seeing. We must restore our economy, maintain and enhance our key instruments of national power, including the Department of Defense, and take an approach with the world that reestablishes our credibility and claim to world leadership. We must support our friends and maintain our alliances. We must not become so self absorbed that we fail to recognize our long-term strategic interests. And we must be very clear, in today's world a strong national defense is not a luxury, it is an imperative.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1388, GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-39) on the resolution (H. Res. 250) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PLIGHT OF THE IRAQI REFUGEES CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the President has announced a plan to re-deploy troops from Iraq, and if you're watching the nightly news or pick up a paper, you might think that the occupation was actually over. But when was the last time you saw a major TV news story from Iraq or some ink at least above the fold about Iraq?

Sadly, the United States' occupation of Iraq is far from over. The need still remains for a stable nation and a stable Iraqi Government that is able to provide basic services and a sense of normalcy and support of the rule of law for everyone in Iraq.

Almost 6 years ago today, the United States military was mobilized in a preemptive attack on Iraq. By now we all know there were no weapons of mass destruction. However, destruction was left in the wake of the invasion. Both the Iraqi and American Governments

must focus on these immediate pressing human needs rather than continuing military presence. A prolonged occupation is not the answer. Prosperity and stability will not come at the end of a gun. We must support reconstruction. We must support reconciliation efforts. And we must find the best way out of Iraq so that we can begin all of this. And the best way is by bringing our troops and military contractors home from Iraq so then we can give Iraq back to the Iraqis and work with them to rebuild reconciliation and to return to their homes.

Families face unimaginable hardships, from widespread violence and suicide attacks to the destruction of their schools, their hospitals, and utility providers. Some of the devastation can be and is actually visible, and it's rubble that still litters the streets and walled-off sections of neighborhoods.

The more difficult picture to capture is that of the refugees. Millions have fled their homes never to return. Nationwide there are between 1.6 million and 2.8 million internally displaced people, refugees who left their homes but not Iraq. According to the International Organization of Migration, only 288,000 have returned home. Refugees International calls this one of the largest humanitarian and displacement crises in the world. They say "most are unable to access their food rations and are often unemployed; they live in squalid conditions, have run out of resources, and find it extremely difficult to access essential services."

Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi Government has established a program to reimburse Iraqi families who have lost their homes. Most families get about half of their home's value, and that's when someone can safely come into the area to assess the damage. This process is slow going and will never make these families whole.

But to what are Iraqi families returning? Refugees International found that some Iraqis who have tried to return home have found their homes occupied or destroyed, the likelihood of violence still high, a collapse of social services, and neighborhoods divided into sectarian areas.

Sadly, the U.S. occupation has caused this to happen. But the good news is we have a chance to bring our troops home, give Iraq back to the Iraqi people, and let them have their sovereignty and let them get home to their properties. We need to help them do that. What we don't need to be doing is spending more money on the military occupation in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HALL of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE AIG CASINO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the AIG Financial Products unit created a casino. At that casino, people were invited to bet on credit default swaps. Smart people went to that casino, the largest financial institutions, the richest and the most powerful in the world. They were smart. They bet against the mortgage market of the United States. They won. But they broke the bank.

Now when ordinary gamblers break the bank, they have to settle for less than their full winnings. But these, as I said, are the most rich and powerful and best-connected institutions in the world, and they want everything the contract calls for. And that is why American taxpayers have provided \$170 billion in payments and risk assumption so that these gamblers would be paid.

That is not how capitalism is supposed to work. When you're owed money by an insolvent financial institution, that institution is supposed to be in receivership. Those who have insured accounts or insured life insurance policies get paid; everybody else takes a substantial haircut. But, instead, Wall Street is telling us that there is this sanctity of contract; so they must get every penny that Wall Street is supposed to get under the contract.

Wait a minute. Sanctity of contract? Every bankruptcy, every receivership involves setting aside virtually every contract of the insolvent financial institution. And when Richard Nixon was President, he, through wage and price controls, shredded every wage contract in this country.

Receivership is the way to clean up the balance sheets of our financial institutions. But we're not focused on it because it costs the shareholders, it costs the creditors, it costs management, and they would rather give us a "solution" that costs the American taxpayer.

Receivership means that you strip some liabilities off the balance sheet. That is the way to strengthen the bal-

ance sheet of our financial institutions. Instead, we're told that the way to improve these balance sheets is to take assets off the balance sheet, albeit the so-called toxic assets. There's nothing the matter with those assets except they're worth less than they used to be. You do not strengthen financial institutions by taking their assets. You strengthen them by putting them in receivership and removing their liabilities.

Now we're focused on the bonuses being paid to the croupiers of this AIG casino. Receivership would have been the clearest way to prevent those payments from being made, but we weren't told about those outrageous bonuses until hours before they were distributed.

□ 1600

Now all that money is in the hands of the executives. No doubt they have got them in Cayman Island accounts as we speak.

Those bonuses should have been disclosed to us, but there is something this Congress can do, and that is through the Tax Code. Impose on the executives of all TARP bailed-out firms a special surtax on that portion of their compensation which is excess.

I think that ought to be the portion in excess of \$500,000, excluding restricted stock. That is the exact standard put forward by President Obama for his toughest standard on executive compensation.

That tax could be at the 60, 70, 80 percent level, and those executives who did not want to pay the tax could, instead, return the excess portion of their compensation to their employer. It is important that this tax law apply not only to those who received excess payments in 2009, but also those who received the excess payments in 2008.

We have a precedent for having excess profits taxes. We can have a special tax on excess compensation.

We also, though, need to put AIG and others into receivership because this is the way we can deal, not with the bonuses, which are in the hundreds of millions of dollars, but deal with the tens and hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer money that are being disbursed to the wealthiest financial institutions of the world, including tens of billions of dollars going overseas.

In order to get this economy moving again, we need banks and other financial institutions with strong balance sheets. The way to get strong balance sheets is to write down liabilities, not to "get rid of" certain assets by calling them toxic assets. It is unlikely that we will pursue this plan because it will lead to substantial losses for the most powerful, richest and best-connected institutions and individuals in this country, but it is the way for us to go forward.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to getting to a plan that serves Main Street, not Wall Street.

SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I come this afternoon to the House of Representatives to bring a message from Kansans and those who support the Second Amendment.

The United States Supreme Court ruled last year that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to own firearms and that Washington DC's gun ban is unconstitutional. This decision was a win for all Americans and sent a message to governments across the country in support of Second Amendment freedoms.

Unfortunately in recent weeks we have heard from administration officials and gun control advocates that they are pushing to restrict an individual's gun rights, the rights guaranteed by our Constitution. Discussing escalating violence caused by drug cartels in Mexico, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder last month called for reinstating the so-called assault weapons ban.

This is the wrong approach. Instead of punishing law-abiding American gun owners, our citizens, our country should be working to enforce existing gun laws that outlaw illegal purchases. We should secure our borders, and we should work to increase the cooperation between the United States and Mexican authorities.

Many Kansans are also concerned about H.R. 45, legislation that has been proposed to license gun owners and track firearms sales. I am hopeful that this bill does not have the support to be approved by this Congress.

An article in today's Wichita Eagle, our newspaper at home, highlights an ironic twist. The article reports that news of gun control efforts, along with concerns that crime will increase with a troubled economy, has ramped up the demand for firearms and ammunitions. Shortages are now common as retail stores are having trouble keeping guns and ammunition on the shelves.

I want to restate that our Founding Fathers established a Bill of Rights to our Constitution to make sure that American citizens can live in freedom without government intrusion. Human liberty and limited government are principles I hold in high regard.

I stand with Kansans in opposing efforts that violate the Second Amendment, and I will continue to cast my votes where it's necessary to protect our rights, including those provided for by the Second Amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SALUTING 290TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 290th Military Police Company of Adelphi, Maryland. Earlier this month I had the honor of attending a welcome home ceremony for the soldiers.

In June of 1948, the "Defenders" received their original Federal recognition and were activated several times during the 1960s and 1970s to quell civil disturbance in Cambridge, Salisbury and Baltimore, Maryland. In 1990, the 290th was mobilized both in support of Operation Desert Shield and of Desert Storm.

On September 11, the 290th was again called to service to secure the crash site at the Pentagon while rescue and recovery operations took place. From there, the 290th was mobilized under Operation Noble Eagle for homeland defense.

The 290th was again called upon to help support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. During the mission, the 290th provided force protection for key air bases, including those in Pakistan.

In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf region, once again the 290th was sent to Mississippi to assist local law enforcement with emergency and relief operations. And, again, in October 2007, the 290th was once again mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is a unit that has been asked to serve our Nation all over the world and right here at home, and each time it has responded to the call of duty valiantly and honorably. But now, deservedly, they are home.

Our Nation's greatest strength is the men and women who selflessly give of themselves to defend our ideals, and their families, who make sacrifices every day while their loved ones are in harm's way. I salute the 290th military police company and welcome them home, and pledge to be an advocate for them and all veterans of our Armed Forces.

Celebrating the valor of our Armed Forces is one thing, but here in Congress we must put our money where our mouth is and support the men and women of our Armed Forces, their families and our veterans, or we are merely providing lip service to them.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the members of the unit from Maryland's First Congressional District, who served so honorably.

Name, Rank, City:

Benitez, Luis Enrique, Jr, SPC, Bel Air, MD 21014; Fowler, Allen Mitchell, SGT, Bel Air, MD 21014; Sullens, Jeffrey Lee, SGT, Belcamp, MD 21017; Frederick, Robert, SPC, Preston, MD 21655; Zimmerman, Maria Masha, SPC, Preston, MD 21655; Wood, James Spencer, SPC, Cockeysville, MD 21030; Smack, Derrick Clinton, SPC, Delmar, MD 21875.

Dixon, Kassey Craig, SPC, Elkridge, MD 21075; Dixon, Kim Craig, SGT, Elkridge, MD 21075; Saunders, James Junior, 1SG, Hanover, MD 21076; Baschogeorge, Franklyn L, SGT, Jessup, MD 20794; Buckingham, Victoria Kathari, SGT, Laurel, MD 20708; Sadler, Brandon Anthony, SPC, Port Deposit, MD 21904; Ward, John Allen, SPC, Port Deposit, MD 21904.

Clayton, John Joseph, SSG, Annapolis, MD 21409; Tull, Thomas David, SSG, Severn, MD 21144; Windisch, Catherine Anne, SSG, Annapolis, MD 21409; Blevins, Richard Earl, SGT, Hebron, MD 21830; Calhoun, Susan Mabel, SGT, Delmar, MD 21875; Cannon, Anitra Chantal, SPC, Crisfield, MD 21817; Dixon, Joel Harrison, SPC, Salisbury, MD 21804.

Henley, Tony Mario, Jr, SPC, Pittsville, MD 21850; Houston, Martin Lee, Jr, SPC, Ocean City, MD 21842; Insley, Amber Joy, SPC, Princess Anne, MD 21853; Marvin, Andrew Michael, SGT, Salisbury, MD 21804; Richards, Johnathan, SPC, Pocomoke, MD 21851; Hunter, Christy Lynn, SGT, Crisfield, MD 21817.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, while I was running for Congress last year, I noticed that Democrats everywhere were campaigning on the notion that they were fiscally responsible and would make wise decisions for our country based on what we could afford.

Frankly, as the former mayor of Johnson City, Tennessee, who has grown accustomed to balanced budgets and living within our means, this sounded pretty good. It made me excited to come to Washington and get our financial house in order.

My excitement, however, was short lived when I realized how thoughtlessly we would spend a billion dollars. First we approved the second \$350 billion of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, which is what people back home and I call a bailout of our banking institutions. Then we approved \$787 billion for what was called economic stimulus, but what was in reality a laundry list of spending items the Democrats hadn't been able to get funded the past few years and won't produce sustainable economic growth.

Just when I thought things couldn't get worse, we went out and passed a fiscal year 2009 omnibus spending bill that included \$410 billion and an 8 percent increase for our Federal agencies. I am going to pause for a second and let that sink in, an 8 percent increase at a time of record deficits where local county, city and State governments are cutting and balancing budgets.

I think the American people are so skeptical of what's happening in Washington because what they see people in

Washington do is disconnected completely from reality. The reality is in Johnson City, Tennessee, they are asking their agencies to fund a 5 percent cut over last year's budget.

All over America, families and State and local governments are tightening their belts and making do with what they have. Only in Washington do we respond to a huge drop in tax receipts by spending even more money.

Now the administration has proposed a \$3.9 trillion budget, which will be 27 percent of gross domestic product of this country. This will create the largest Federal Government since World War II.

This budget is especially troubling because it's coupled with tax increases, and our job creators have to pay for it. The math of these policies seems to be more government spending, plus higher taxes, equals more jobs and economic growth.

If this equation seems questionable to you, I'm right there with you. This budget spends too much, taxes too much and borrows too much.

I think the American people are beginning to question everything they hear being done in the name of economic stimulus and recovery. They heard "fiscally responsible" during the campaign and assumed that meant we would be looking for savings from ineffective programs and keep income in families pockets where it's most needed. They are getting just the opposite.

My House Republican colleagues prefer a simpler strategy that has proven effective time and time again. First you want to leave the money in the hands of the families to decide how to spend their own money. We proposed lowering the lowest two tax brackets from 15 to 10 percent and 10 to 5 percent respectively.

We would like to create tax incentives for small businesses, the engines of our economy, to create these jobs. We believe it's important to eliminate taxes on unemployment insurance, which will help those who have lost their jobs stay afloat until they find a new job.

And I believe we should invest in our transportation, water, education, and infrastructure. As a fiscal conservative, I generally don't like deficit spending unless future generations will get to enjoy the benefit of the spending.

By leaving a lasting infrastructure in place, our children will be able to enjoy the benefits, even if they are asked to pay for some of the costs. While I am hopeful we can consider these common-sense solutions, the fact is Republicans are in the minority. We don't have the ability to stop these harmful policies from going forward, only President Obama, and Democrats and Congress can.

I urge the American people to ask President Obama and his Democratic colleagues to fulfill their campaign promises of fiscal responsibility and stop these tax increases and wasteful

spending, and help restore our economy, which is still the strongest in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OUTRAGED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I found it almost comical today, as I watched both on the floor and from my office, as one Member after the other has come to these podiums all across this Chamber, and they pounded on their desk, and they have screamed and they have all used the same word, "outraged."

They are outraged over the \$165 million in bonuses that AIG has paid and the \$90 million that AIG has paid to European banks and Wall Street investment firms. But I am outraged about something different. I am outraged that they are outraged, and the reason is because I am only one of 17 Members out of 435 Members who voted "no" on every single one of these so-called stimulus and bailout packages, for one reason: we didn't think it would work.

Mr. Speaker, as we were trying to raise our hands and just ask intelligent questions about them, we were finding that people were ignoring the rules and they were rushing them through, that there was a whole set of people out there screaming and yelling, if you just didn't pass this bill in this form, the sky was going to fall and the world was going to come to an end, and they pushed these bills through without legislative analysis. While we were trying to just tell people what was going on and simply ask the question nobody wanted to hear, they just wanted to pass the bills.

Mr. Speaker, I have a suggestion: just read the bills. If we had read those bills, we would know what most of the analysts are telling us now, and that is that it would take 100,000 to 250,000 government bureaucrats just to monitor where this money is going and how it's going to be spent.

And instead of coming to the podium and pounding it and saying how outraged they are, wouldn't it be novel if they came and just said "we are wrong. We admit we are wrong. We are not going to make those mistakes again."

But, Mr. Speaker, coming here and saying you are outraged is not some kind of get out of political hot water free card. In fact, it's like a sitcom. Imagine this situation: a husband goes out in this economic situation, buys an expensive new boat.

A few weeks later, the bill comes in the mail, and his wife opens it up. And she is steaming and seething and looking at how they are going to pay this payment.

And he walks in, and he looks at her, and she throws it across the table. And he picks up the bill, and he looks at it, realizes he can't make those payments, looks at her steaming and mad, and all of a sudden he pounds the table and he says, "Honey, I am outraged over this bill that I am having to pay." And that's where Congress is finding itself today.

Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't run our businesses that way. Only the government and AIG run theirs that way. We have a lot of people calling our offices and saying "What can I do?"

Well, here's what you can do. Go find out how people voted and then call them up and ask them why.

The second thing we can do is make sure we are going to stop this bailout madness and then simply do this. Before we take more options away from our children and grandchildren by mortgaging their future, let's simply ask these four questions: Where is the money actually going? How do we know it's going to get there? Will it work once it arrives? And how will we pay it back?

□ 1615

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that perhaps if we do that, next time there will be more than 17 of us justified and actually coming to the podium, beating on it, and saying we are outraged.

CAP-AND-TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHAUER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Thank you.

I rise today to talk about the President's program for cap-and-trade. I'd like to take just a few minutes to explain it a little bit and talk to people about what this is really going to mean to them.

I represent the State of West Virginia. But here in the United States, coal is our most abundant resource. We have recoverable reserves that are sufficient for at least 250 years. Coal currently fuels 50 percent of all the electricity generated in this country.

In my home State of West Virginia, 98 percent of our electricity comes from coal. Our State has abundant resources. We give, and we turn on the lights in America.

There's been a lot of discussion surrounding the future of coal in this global warming debate. The first thing we need to remember is that anything we do, whether or not it's climate change, is inextricably linked with energy policies that are going to cascade across the environmental, economic, and social issues of the day.

So cap-and-trade. It sounds nice. Cap emissions and then trade away. What does that really mean?

It means, basically, a tax increase on carbon dioxide emissions that will lead to a reduction in energy use. That sounds good. But it will also lead to an enormous erosion of America's family budget. This will tax every single American and tax those who are in most difficulty and who have most difficulty making ends meet.

The administration's budget calls for a 100 percent auction of allowances under a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sounds good, doesn't it?

The President's "cap-and-tax" proposal will impose mandates and further regulations on manufacturing and will dramatically increase the cost of energy and electricity. This proposal will create a great transfer of wealth between coal-dependent States like West Virginia and those that rely on alternative resources, with no change in the ultimate environmental outcome of the cap-and-trade policy and a huge estimated GDP loss.

I think there's one thing we know here in this time and right now is that a solid economy is the best way to innovate and create and solve problems that we need help with.

So you say, Where does the money come from? If you're going to trade and buy, where does the money come from? That money will come from the individual consumer because the manufacturers, the electricity producer, all the folks who are going to be trading allowances are going to have to find that money somewhere, and it's going to be tacked on as a form of an energy tax to every single American.

Under the Lieberman-Warner legislation of last year, the EPA estimated a rise in electricity costs between 44 and 79 percent. In West Virginia, the price of our electricity would go up between 103 and 135 percent. That is going to hurt folks on fixed incomes, our elderly, and it's going to hurt the poor the most, who cannot afford the huge chunk out of our budgets that energy takes right now.

The revenue returned to consumers from the President's budget, he says he's going to give money back to folks to help them meet this high cost. But that is not even close to covering the increase in household electricity costs.

When the President was a candidate, this is what he said, "What I've said that if we would put a cap-and-trade system in place that is more—that is as aggressive if not more aggressive than anyone else's out there, so if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can, it's just that it will bankrupt them because they're going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted."

Remember, the State of West Virginia, 98 percent of our electricity is generated by coal.

Manufacturing output will fall considerably if the President's plan goes through. The whole idea is to tax the consumer, to bring down emissions,

and no consideration has been made as to what this is going to do to the rank-and-file everyday citizen.

What is the job loss? In West Virginia, under Lieberman-Warner—and I realize that's not the President's bill. The President's bill is even broader reaching than this one. The estimation of the job loss is between 7,000 and 10,000 jobs between now and the year 2020.

Addressing climate change concerns is a global challenge requiring global solutions. We need common sense. We need to slow down here because unilateral action by this Congress and by the United States will have no impact, or very little impact on global emissions but will also have a great impact on our economy and on our citizens.

We need to innovate and use technology. We could use the development of advanced clean coal technologies; most importantly, CCS, or carbon capture and storage technologies.

We need technology to push as hard and fast as we can. I urge caution. We need to slow down. For the sake of my constituents and those in States like mine, we should not forget this as our debate moves forward.

KEEPING PROMISES MADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. We've heard a lot about AIG and how they shouldn't have been getting those bonuses they got—\$165 million—but let's take a real objective look here.

These executives took one of the biggest, most important companies in the world, in the country, and they ran it into the dirt. They bankrupted a lot of other companies. But they didn't have to go into bankruptcy because they convinced the government to come in with taxpayer dollars and give them \$173 billion.

Now that's pretty extraordinary. They still have their jobs. Why wouldn't they get a bonus? Good night. You run a company into the dirt and then talk the government into giving you \$173 billion in taxpayer dollars, that's deserving of something, and apparently somebody thought it was worth a bonus.

Well, the fact is they shouldn't have gotten bonuses. They should have been in receivership. But I keep looking for people to finally keep the promises that they have made.

We heard that we were going to get change that people could believe in. We saw with the bailout back in September what some of us knew was a horrible mistake, and we said it then.

Even though I am a Republican, I was looking forward to change from the deficit spending. Yet we have just gotten more and more and more of the same. When are we going to get change? Isn't it about time we quit the deficit spending? It would sure be nice.

We were told that there would be no more lobbyists in this administration. I liked the sound of that. It sounded good. Well, it turned out he meant no lobbyists except for the ones they actually hired to be part of the administration.

We were told there would be new ideas in this administration; we'd go in a new direction; we'd have change. But then we got a Secretary of the Treasury that is given credit for thinking of a lot of the plan that Paulson had, even though I still haven't been able to figure out what plan that was.

So we didn't get change. We're getting more of the same. More and more of the deficit spending. When are we going to get the change?

We have heard from the majority over and over again for the last 4 years that deficit spending is bad. I agreed with them my first 2 years here, 2005 and 2006. So when they took the majority, I thought, Well, the good news is they'll finally stop this ridiculous deficit spending. But they didn't. It got worse and worse and worse.

Then when they found that there was a President from the same party, instead of together, since they control the House, the Senate and the White House, to completely bring an end to deficit spending, it's just gotten worse and worse.

This madness has to stop. We are blessed right now with a President who's one of the most gifted communicators I have ever seen in my lifetime. But what we are finding is that true leadership is not going to be found between the lines in a Teleprompter. You can look at the Teleprompter, you can read from it, but that is not where leadership is.

I heard right here from that podium, Mr. Speaker, at the State of the Union last month these words: "We're going to assure the continuity of a strong, viable institution that can serve our people and our economy," and President Obama said, "I understand that on any given day, Wall Street may be more comforted by an approach that gives banks bailouts with no strings attached, and that holds nobody accountable for their reckless decision. But such an approach won't solve the problem."

He went on to say, "This time, CEOs won't be able to use taxpayer money to pad their paychecks or buy fancy drapes or disappear on a private jet. Those days are over."

And then here we come the following month—there were no strings attached—to say, You know what? You ran this company in the ground. You don't get a bonus with taxpayer dollars.

I'm kind of outraged over that. Like my friend, Mr. FORBES, I'm kind of outraged that people are outraged they didn't stop this, when some of us—you go back to some of our comments on this very floor—we said, Read the bill. It's a problem.

Well, it's time for true change. Let's get what we should have and not what people talk about.

CONSIDER THE FAIR TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. I'm here to support the Fair Tax. The current U.S. Tax Code is too big, too complicated, and benefits too many special interests, and must be replaced with a code that is fair and encourages savings and investment.

This code has been amended tens of thousands of times, my colleagues, and it's grown to over 60,000 pages, possibly more. For this, and many other reasons, I rise in support of the Fair Tax and urge my colleagues to consider this new tax simplification program.

The Fair Tax will eliminate Federal income taxes, corporate income taxes, payroll taxes, capital gains taxes, the alternative minimum tax, and the death tax, and replace it with a flat, simple and efficient consumption tax.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan hit the nail on the head when he described the government's basic view of the economy as: "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. If it stops moving, subsidize it."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this burdensome view taken by our government has resulted in the current problem we face today, where citizens and business owners across this country devote billions of hours and billions of tax dollars just to navigate the process of paying their Federal income tax.

A simpler Tax Code may have prevented former Senator Daschle or current Secretary of the Treasury Geithner the embarrassment of having to explain their failure to properly pay the taxes due to the complicated IRS tax system.

I know many of my constituents in the Sixth Congressional District are aware of how this simple tax reform will work when implemented. They have written numerous letters to me and voiced their support at many town meetings.

I thought I'd take a moment this afternoon to lay out the basic principles of this legislation for those who are not familiar with the Fair Tax.

The Fair Tax will do away with all Federal taxes such as income tax, the death tax, as I mentioned, all the way down to the estate tax. Basically, many Americans with low incomes will receive a check at the beginning of each month from the Federal Government that will cover the cost of the consumption tax on necessary goods, thus increasing the purchasing power of low-income individuals and completely avoiding any unintended tax increase on their purchasing power.

Furthermore, a study conducted by Harvard economist Dale Jorgenson illustrates that roughly 22 percent of the

retail price of an item is the direct result of the cost our current Tax Code places on a product through payroll taxes, business taxes, business taxes, compliance costs, and other taxes.

Therefore, by paying an additional consumption tax, we will be able to fund our entire government, and the taxpayer can keep 100 percent of his hard-earned paycheck. This would lead to increased savings, increased investment, and Americans, not the Federal Government, would decide how to best utilize their wealth.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Fair Tax, through its simplicity, will provide transparency to the Federal budget and Federal spending here in Congress. Each time the government claims a needed tax increase to fund runaway spending, as we do, and government expansion, or special district funding requests, the American citizen would be directly affected by this irresponsibility and would be aware of it immediately through the transparency of the Fair Tax system instead of hidden tax increases and budget gimmicks that our government institutes today.

□ 1630

So now, my colleagues, it is time to get rid of this complicated, inefficient, and unfair tax. Now is the time to institute transparency, efficiency, and, finally, fairness in our Tax Code.

Now, for those of us in Congress and perhaps throughout the Nation who are skeptical, I have a suggestion for them, an approach that I think would be possible. Why not take Washington, D.C. as a demonstration project to see if it would work here in Washington, D.C.; allow all residents of this city to pay no Federal taxes, and institute a fair consumption tax, and this consumption tax would be collected by the city and then sent to the Federal Government. Then we could see how it would work and discern its advantages and disadvantages.

The Fair Tax I think ultimately would prove to be very useful, and I urge my colleagues to stand for real change and support this fair solution.

H. RES. 251

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and Members of the House the introduction of a resolution of inquiry regarding the payment of executive bonuses to employees of American International Group, AIG. It is H. Res. 251.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and I, as well as many Americans across the country, are outraged at the unfurling of events surrounding this freewheeling company which helped to lead us into the financial disaster we now face.

To make matters worse, we find out this week that the administration was fully aware of the March 15 payment of

\$165 million in executive or retention bonuses for many months. Even more troubling is the fact that the one person who was in the dark about the pending bonuses, until last week no less, was our very own Secretary of the Treasury who was supposed to be masterminding our economic recovery and banking recovery.

It is clear from the media reports that AIG did not award these bonuses as a snub to the administration, but instead waited until they had the blessing of the Secretary of Treasury, who apparently believes he did his due diligence by berating AIG and then saying that there was nothing that he could do to stop the bonuses.

The fact that we are rewarding the very people who caused the largest corporate loss in history is astounding. Just recently, the Attorney General of New York has indicated that at least 73 AIG employees received bonuses in excess of more than \$1 million, including nearly one dozen AIG employees who no longer work for the beleaguered firm.

Mr. Speaker, there are millions of Americans who have lost their jobs during this economic crisis, and most did their jobs well with great purpose and performance. There are no bonuses for them. Instead, they risk losing their homes, health care, and more. Meanwhile, AIG employees who engaged in risky, perilous behavior that brought our economy to the brink of collapse are rewarded.

There is a great deal of finger-pointing about how we got into this mess and what Congress and the administration is doing. Let me state just a few facts.

Since the beginning of this Congress, which is about 2½ months old now, only eight bills have been signed into law; and this week is like many others in the House, virtually no substantive legislative activity. This House, within 8 days of one person being attacked in Connecticut by a chimpanzee, rushed through legislation to make it harder to own chimpanzees. Mr. Speaker, where are our priorities? Here we sit, wringing our hands over how to curb bailout abuses, and what have we done to date to show for it?

Today, again, the House was deeply contemplating a series of non-controversial bills under suspension, including two measures naming post offices, and approving a bill supporting Professional Social Worker Month. I like social workers, Mr. Speaker, but who in their right mind thinks that that should be a priority today or this week while the Nation is roiled in anger over these bonuses? We might as well tackle more chimp or monkey legislation.

Mr. Speaker, based upon the Nation's unemployment rate, which hit a new high of 8.1 percent in February, that translates into 16 Americans losing their job every minute. Americans are struggling to keep their homes. Two

hundred seventy-five thousand foreclosure filings were reported in January, with one home in every 440 receiving a foreclosure filing in February. This year, the stock market has plunged 1,750 points and is at its lowest rate since 1997. Millions of Americans continue to lose their retirement security. To date, AIG has received \$200 billion in taxpayers' funds to keep the company afloat and recently suffered the largest quarterly loss of any corporation in American history.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are hurting. We cannot sit by and watch as AIG executives not only keep their jobs but are also rewarded for their actions.

Further, the administration needs to come clean on its discussions with AIG and approving these bonuses. Therefore, today I have introduced a resolution requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit to Congress all communications relating to AIG and its approval of these executive bonuses as well as the use of Federal infusion of taxpayer money. Americans deserve to know the full story, and this Congress must act to get it now.

The excuses on television are, "Well, these are contracts. We can't mess with contract law." Mr. Speaker, recently we have told the Big Three auto makers that if they want Federal Government assistance, they have to cram down the people that work in their auto factories. Those are contracts. Recently, the House has passed legislation on mortgage relief that says that even though a bank gave you \$100,000 to buy a house, if you got that house under false circumstances, we have to cram down how much you owe the bank. That is certainly contract law as well.

The notion that it is an excuse that somehow these contracts were entered into and we must honor them, and we have to pay \$165 million to 73 people, is an abomination. We need to stop it. And I am asking for every Member of this House to cosponsor the resolution.

THE PARTY OF "OWE"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, again, it is a privilege to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and also to have the chance to lay out here before you and our colleagues and ultimately the American people a point on the cause that we are involved in.

We have dealt with crisis after crisis here on the floor of Congress, and I look back at many of the things that have taken place historically here, and I could list them long. But I will say that I think the most colossal mistake that this Congress ever made was passing the President's Stimulus Act.

I think we have a budget hanging out today that may be a more colossal

error. In fact, this budget that lays in front of us, President Obama's budget, spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much. And what it turns into is their party, that side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, has become the Party of Owe, the party of debt, the party of borrow. Not the party of "no," the party of "owe." They can't say "no" to anything; they just want to owe everything and everybody, even to the extent where this budget projects out by CBO to go to 200 percent deficit of GDP. Unheard of. The highest we have ever had in history was 1945, the end of World War II. Now, the President's budget takes this to that place.

This takes us to, in the middle of this economic crisis where we have seen the equity and the stock market drop by a huge percentage, by one-third or 40 percent or, in many cases, even more. It takes us to this point where the President said to us that he believes that FDR's New Deal actually would have worked, it actually was working, and that he just simply lost his nerve and didn't spend enough money. Can you imagine?

When he said that to us back in, I think, early February, I didn't think he was completely serious about having more commitment to spending a massively larger amount of money than FDR did in the New Deal.

But history hasn't served us very well in the way they reported the New Deal, because a lot of young people for two generations have been taught that the New Deal was a good deal and it got us out of the Depression.

Mr. Speaker, by the time the stock market got back to where it was in October of 1929, Franklin Delano Roosevelt had been dead for 9 years; we had fought two wars, World War II and Korea, and finally in 1954 the markets got to where they were in 1929.

There is no way that a logical objective historian can say that the Keynesian idea of borrowing and spending was a good deal when it was the New Deal. Nor is there any model in history that says that the new New Deal, the Obama Uber New New Deal, would be as good a deal as the bad old deal or a better deal than the old New Deal. This is the new New Deal, it is a bad deal, and Keynesian economics have failed wherever they have been tried.

We need to turn ourselves around to real solutions, Mr. Speaker, real solutions for the American people, real solutions that will take America to the next level of its destiny, not the level down, not in the direction where we put our children and grandchildren and our great grandchildren in debt, not to where little babies born today are looking at thousands of dollars in debt, for every child that is born in America that they are going to have to work off. And we can either print a lot of money and devalue our currency, or we can suppress our economy for generations to come by all of this debt that is on us. And what can transform us as a country? What will ever grow our econ-

omy out of this anchor that we are now dragging? They are going to be pitching more anchors off the side of this great economic ship, of the greatest economic machinery that has ever been built in the United States of America, and our free market system.

But in the bailout bill last fall, we pitched an anchor over the side, and we have been dragging that anchor. And then we have the stimulus plan that is another anchor we pitched over the side that we are dragging along bottom. And we have got the President's budget as another anchor that we are going to have to drag. And, now, they are talking about another stimulus plan. And burden after burden heaped on top of the American people, the free market system cannot sustain this kind of a load. We need to do something transformative.

The transformative component that I am advocating here tonight is the one that Mr. STEARNS of Florida advocated a little bit earlier, Mr. Speaker. And I'll take you this way on the fair tax, and that is this:

I was audited one too many years in a row early on when I first started my construction business. The IRS showed up every year for a while, and they decided they were going to justify their existence by milking the little bit of blood that there was out of this fledgling turnip of a company that King Construction was back in those years. And after they audited me one too many years in a row and I shut the doors on my business for 4 days so that I could be there and personally hand them the documents and justify the expenses, so that I could minimize the loss that was going to come to me from the IRS, because I had experience with that, and it cost me money, and I had to make a calculation on whether I was going to—I believe I did everything right. And I had to make a calculation on whether I was going to stand on principle and go and fight the IRS, in which case it was almost inevitable that I would lose my business in the process, because I couldn't afford to be away from my business and still keep it going. Or, borrow the money to pay the IRS a bill that I still don't believe that I owed in order to be able to keep operating.

Well, that was one of the times when I didn't commit suicide on principle for the business, but I borrowed the money, paid the IRS. And then I went out and climbed in the seat of one of my bulldozers, and the smoke went up out of the exhaust stack, and it went out of my ears. And I began to think, what is the IRS doing in my office? Why are they impeding my production? Why are they making Monday morning quarterback decisions on me and my life when I am doing the best I can to comply with the laws that are passed by Congress? Well, I didn't know then that it was impossible for the new head of the IRS to figure out the Tax Code.

So, Mr. Speaker, when Timothy Geithner can't figure it out even with Turbo Tax, and if Tom Daschle can't

figure it out, I guess I shouldn't have felt so angry. But I am glad today that I was angry, because I did a little fast-forward in my mind and it was, I want rid of the IRS. I want to be rid of that intrusive organization that can come in and take away the sweat of my brow and diminish the creativity and the energy and the entrepreneurial spirit that it takes for any business to get started, especially a small business, and especially a highly capital-intensive business like mine was. I understand how this works. So I just leaped to this conclusion. The next day I decided, I want rid of the IRS, and I want to repeal the entire Federal Income Tax Code.

Now, I didn't think about how you get that done. I am working on how you get that done today. But what I thought about was, how do you replace the revenue? Because the government has to have some money to run on, and the only way you replace the revenue is if you go to a national sales tax, and it starts with about three principles to know:

Businesses transfer the cost of those taxes on to their customers. Yes, I wrote a check for those taxes, but I had to pass those costs on to my customers if I was going to stay in business. Corporations don't really pay taxes, businesses don't pay taxes. They are tax collectors for Uncle Sam.

But here is the transformative principle No. 1: Ronald Reagan, quoted by Mr. STEARNS of Florida, and I will give you a different quote from Ronald Reagan. He said, "what you tax, you get less of. A tax is a punishment." But Uncle Sam, the Federal Government, has the first lien on all productivity in America.

□ 1645

If you have earnings, savings or investments, Uncle Sam is there with his hand out. When you walk in and punch the time clock at 8 o'clock on Monday morning, Uncle Sam is right there figuratively with his hand out, and you work until he gets what he wants. Then he puts that in his pocket and figuratively goes away, and then you can start working for the rest of the interest.

If it is earnings, savings or investment, if it is productivity, the Federal Government has the first lien on all productivity in America. So a taxation is a punishment. It is a disincentive. We have less production than we would have otherwise because we tax it first. We tax all earnings, savings and investment. If you go to a national sales tax, "the Fair Tax," and tax the last stop on the retail for personal consumption of sales and service, that way you're actually levying the tax against the people that are the consumers that are using it. So we lift the tax off of all production in America, off of all earnings, savings and investments in America, then we cut those anchor chains that we are dragging. The cost of tax compliance is a cost to this economy,

because we have lawyers that are tied up and business decision makers who have to, in every single business decision, do a tax calculation. We eliminate all of that and take that burden off and cut those anchor chains that we are dragging, and we turn those brains of H&R Block and tax lawyers, tax accountants and people that are strategizing business off of the advice that they get from their tax lawyers, and there are those people that have to make those decisions without the benefit of counsel, all of that mental energy, all of that time goes from, I'm going to just say this in a nice, gentle way since it is St. Patrick's Day, it goes from the parasitic sector of the economy to the productive sector of the economy. And the productive sector is the free market sector that produces goods and services that has value to people. That is the first transformative thing about the Fair Tax, of taking that burden off of the production, the taxation that is on production, and cuts all of those anchor chains, and it puts the taxation over on consumption where we can use a little bit of an incentive for savings and investment. And it lets people decide when to pay their taxes by when they make their purchases.

I watched a little YouTube clip of the majority leader in the United States Senate, HARRY REID. It was just not quite a year ago. He said, "we have a voluntary tax system." Well, it is hard to make that argument stick. No. We have a confiscatory tax system. It is not voluntary. You don't today get to pay taxes when you want to. If you fail to pay your taxes, the IRS will show up, and they will charge you interest and penalty for failure to pay your taxes. If you still don't pay your taxes, they will garnish your wages. They can come in and put a title on your vehicle, assign themselves a new title to the vehicle, sell that vehicle and credit your account. But the interest and the penalty probably is going on faster than you can sell a car to get that back out of there. There is nothing that the IRS can't touch if they are going to collect your taxes. And when they are done, if they think you have avoided taxes, they will encourage prosecution. We have people in federal penitentiaries today for tax avoidance. So it is a confiscatory, mandatory taxation today.

I want to go to what HARRY REID calls a "voluntary tax system." That is the Fair Tax. People volunteer to pay the tax when they make their purchases. There are other components to this, but I want to make one more point before I yield, and that is the other transformative point. The first transformative point is that what you tax, you get less of. The Fair Tax takes the tax off of all production in America. All earnings, savings and investment is not punished. You get to keep it.

The other transformative component is this, and a lot of people have been credited with this statement. I will

give the general one, Mr. Speaker, and then we will perhaps give credit all where it is due before this discussion is over. But there have been many of our Founders and statesmen that have referenced what happens to a country that claims to be a democracy, and I will call us a constitutional Republic, when more than half of the people figure out they can vote themselves benefits out of the public Treasury, on that day our democracy ceases to exist. The future of the Republic ceases to exist. Many of us think we have crossed that line already. And if we listen to the promises that were made in the last campaign that came from our now President, Mr. Speaker, about how everybody was going to get a tax cut, even those that weren't paying taxes were getting tax cuts, those are refundable tax credits. It is a transfer of wealth from the wealthy to the unwealthy, a transfer of wealth internally. When that happens, when the American people become dependent upon someone else for their livelihood, when they lose their sense of self-responsibility, that sense of self-sustainability, when they stop teaching their children, Mr. Speaker, that they cannot be a burden on this society, that they must be a contributor to this society, then our freedom is diminished, and perhaps our constitutional Republic ceases to exist.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit this. There is a way we can pass this Fair Tax, and if we do so, no one any longer pays any federal income tax. Everybody gets roughly 56 percent more in their paycheck. And how do we transform this sense of responsibility? In this way, in billions of transactions at a time. When little Michael Dicks stepped up to the counter when he was 8 years old, he said, "I want to buy this." He put a box of Skittles on the counter. It was 89 cents. He counted out his 89 cents. The lady at the check-out register said, "that will be fine. I need 96 cents." And he looked at his father and said, "Dad, I've only got 89 cents. The price says 89 cents and the lady at the register says you have to pay the sales tax for the Governor." He looked at his father with a pained look in his eyes. He said, "Dad, I have to pay tax on Skittles?" "Yes, you have to pay tax on Skittles, Son."

Think what that does. If every little child growing up in America, when they buy their Skittles or their Barbie doll clothes or their baseball cards, or whatever they spend their money on, if they have to put a couple of dimes up on the counter for Uncle Sam, they will be reminded at every transaction, millions of young people, billions of transactions, how expensive our Federal Government is. When that happens, it will slowly transform America, the core of America, the core of American responsibility. The two things transformational are we stop punishing production and we raise generations of fiscally responsible, independent-minded Americans. Those are the two transformational principles.

I would like to go to whichever one of my colleagues is the most urgently here. So, I would be happy to yield then to the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. NATHAN DEAL.

Mr. DEAL from Georgia. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to join him in talking about the Fair Tax issue and to thank my colleague, JOHN LINDER, who is here on the floor, who is the primary sponsor of this legislation in the House.

We all talk about change. We all talk about reform. I can't think of a single bill that is before this House, in committee at least, that would have the transformational effect of passing a Fair Tax. As the name implies, it is a matter of fairness. It would do many things, and you're going to hear, in addition to Mr. KING who has already addressed the topic, you're going to hear others today talk about some of the benefits that would be derived from this kind of legislation.

First of all, it gives people a choice, a choice over how they spend their money. We know that our country is in a deficit in terms of savings. This approach to taxation would say to every American, if you choose to save, then you're going to be able to do so, and the government is not going to tax you as a result of making that choice. If you choose to spend and to consume, then that is the basis on which your taxation will be founded. Those are the kinds of things that give people more of an involvement and a control over their own financial destiny. Of course, as has been referred to, it does much to restore our balance in the international trading community.

Coming from a part of the country in the Southeast which was the old textile belt, we have seen those jobs virtually disappear. It happened for a variety of reasons. But one of the things that made it at a great disadvantage was the tax structure that our country has in place. If we are going to compete in the international marketplace, then a system that does not add on a cost at every stage of the production cycle in the form of taxation is the best way to begin to make us competitive. I think it will be a step toward having those industries, many of whom have left for a variety of reasons, but taxation being one of them, to see them return back to our shores and to restore those job opportunities back to the American people.

For this and many other reasons, I support the Fair Tax. I urge those committees in this House who have jurisdiction over that issue to discharge it from their committee and give this House the opportunity for the elected representatives to express the will of their constituents on this very critical and important reform, the Fair Tax. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman for coming down and weighing in on this subject matter. I appreciate each of you as you weigh in. Hopefully we will be able to do this more often in the future weeks.

I would like to then yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Thank you for setting up this time this evening to talk about the Fair Tax, something that a great many of us, in fact 51, have signed on as cosponsors of this particular piece of legislation. I do salute my friend, Mr. LINDER of Georgia, for continuing to keep this piece of legislation out in the forefront. It is incumbent upon us as members of the legislative body to do what we can to bring things to the floor for debate. But it is also incumbent on people out there in just good old regular America to call their Members of Congress, to inform them of what they want.

I think of Skip and Loretta Akin back in my district who, every time there is a Fair Tax issue that comes up, they are a part of it. They are wearing their Fair Tax shirts. They have been to the city of Atlanta talking about the issue and bringing the good news forward. But there are just a lot of people that aren't listening. We are in great economic peril now. We all know that. We all have compassion. We want to solve the problems that are out there. But we hear more and more about taxes. We hear class warfare, if you will. And again, my colleague has just talked about the issue of choosing where you spend your money, choosing if you're going to buy something. It even goes beyond that. It is choosing whether you buy something new or whether you buy something existing or used where there won't be a sales tax on it. What is amazing to me is that besides the fact that it does away with all of the other taxes that are embedded out there, it is something that you alluded to, Mr. KING, just a little while ago, and that was that it prohibits funding of the IRS after the year 2013. Can you imagine no Internal Revenue Service after the year 2013? Why? Because each and every one of us remits at the cash register at the point of sale. We remit the taxes there. So yes, it has already been alluded to, in the administration, where the Treasury Secretary that our President chose could not figure out how to pay his taxes among the overly complicated Tax Code. I hope that Secretary Geithner will join my colleagues and others in supporting this particular bill.

Lastly, Mr. KING, I would like to also remind my colleagues that there are Fair Tax rallies that are being held all across the country. The next one that I'm familiar with is in Jacksonville, in my State of Florida, on the 11th of April. Unfortunately, I will not be able to be there as I will be somewhere overseas visiting with our troops during that time of our break. The people that are keeping this issue forward and in the forefront today are the ones that need to be saluted as well as those that continue to talk about it. I encourage you and will be here every time that you want to bring the Fair Tax issue to the floor.

I thank you again for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) for coming down and standing up for the one big policy before this Congress that will give us back our freedom. He wouldn't be the only individual from Florida who would be on and be a supporter of the Fair Tax. As I cast my eyes around this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, I pick up another one. It would be the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) whom I would like to yield to and ask him if he can add to this cause that is led by Mr. LINDER. As I came to this Congress, I looked around to find JOHN LINDER, because I knew that I wanted to tie up with him on this Fair Tax cause.

I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. I thank you so much. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for yielding to me. I thank him for his leadership and also for calling this Special Order tonight to talk about the Fair Tax and about the subject of taxation which has sort of gotten brushed under the carpet and not been considered in the 111th Congress, or for that matter in the past Congress. The Fair Tax has not been given a fair hearing or a fair chance.

I can't come before the House and talk about the subject without complimenting the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER). Mr. LINDER certainly is an inspiration for moving this proposal forward, not only in Congress, but across the Nation. We were pleased to have him in my Congressional district to speak on the Fair Tax and other matters before Congress. There is no question that without JOHN LINDER, this topic would be totally forgotten both in the Congress and across the country.

□ 1700

I come before Congress at a time when we have a new administration, and I think we all wish the President well. We wish him success. The country is hurting economically, and we don't want one person without a job. We don't want one person who has a problem paying their mortgage or losing their home. We don't want people to suffer because they don't have health insurance or an opportunity for education or the great opportunities that this Nation provides.

Unfortunately, this new administration also has not considered the Fair Tax. I think they have considered or are considering just about every other tax. I don't have enough time to cite all of them, but if you ever want to see new taxes, look at the budget that has been rolled out by the new administration. Some are hidden. Some have fancy, clever names. There is the cap-and-trade which would impose higher costs for energy users. Someone told me it is over \$3,128 annually in higher cost for every household. That is a new

tax. It has a clever name, but they have no problem imposing another tax on people who are already hurting and having difficulty in paying their energy bills.

The new administration is looking at again a host of other ways to tax people, but not looking at the Fair Tax, which would probably be the simplest, one of the fairest means of assessing costs to run our government. Now they are talking about new taxes on small business, taxes for anyone who makes \$250,000 a year, taxes on charitable giving, taxes on certain housing and financial transactions, bringing back the death tax, and there are some taxes that under the Bush administration needed to be extended and they will let them expire.

So I think they are finding every way to tax but not looking at probably the simplest, most honest approach to again raising revenue, and that we think is the option of the Fair Tax.

It is kind of interesting, too, in the new crowd we have folks we find don't mind raising new taxes because a lot of them haven't been paying those taxes or are having difficulty explaining both to congressional committees and the American public and others that they couldn't figure out the taxes, or their highly paid CPAs or accountants couldn't figure out the morass of regulations and all of the terms in the thousands of pages of Tax Code that everybody has to comply with. This is not a laughing matter, folks. We have buried ourselves in tax law that again would probably reach higher than me if it was all stacked up here on these desks at which I am pleased to speak tonight.

But again, I think that it is vital and I would appeal to the leadership of the House and those on the Ways and Means Committee and other committees in the Congress to give the Fair Tax a fair chance. Give it a fair hearing. Give it a chance to be debated in committee and here on the floor of the House of Representatives. Instead of this long list of new taxes that we hear coming out almost daily from the new administration to raise revenue, to look at a means of a very simple, economical, efficient reasons of raising revenue, eliminating the red tape and eliminating the questionable thousands of pages that people are having difficulty with, whether they are high Wall Street smart executives being considered for the highest posts in our land, or the average taxpayer who is struggling to compile their taxes.

I know that people are saying that Mr. MICA made this up, but I came from my office and almost tripped over a little stack that I have on the floor that I have to get to this week, and that is my taxes, to prepare that complicated—and thank goodness I have been out of business and the private sector for some time—so what used to be probably 2 or 3 inches of tax returns and sitting down for some time with my CPA and accountant is a much

smaller, less complicated affair; but nonetheless, it is complicated. And many people, obviously, have difficulty complying with the thousands and thousands of pages and rules and regulations that are interpreted differently.

So this is the time, I think, to give this proposal which has been developed by some here in Congress a fair chance, a fair hearing. Let's not sweep it under the carpet for another 2 years, but let's give it an honest hearing and look at how we can eliminate a huge bureaucracy and red tape. And so important today in creating jobs, whether it is in my district which is hurting for jobs, or across the country, the issue of competitiveness in the world markets, and nothing would allow us to compete more than a fair and equitable tax system that many other nations in the world have turned to, and many of our competitors have turned to, which make us less competitive in our jobs and products, and ability to compete in this global market.

I am here tonight to join my colleagues in asking that we give the Fair Tax a fair hearing and a fair chance and fair consideration in the Congress rather than the host of taxes that are being cast upon us and the Nation to pay by the administration at this time.

I thank you for the opportunity to join you tonight for a few minutes in this Special Order. And again, I praise your work and hope that we get a fair hearing on the Fair Tax.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Florida. I would just add that the Fair Tax does everything good that anybody else's tax proposal does that is good, it does them all, and it does them all better. And I do that right before I yield to the real American leader on the Fair Tax, an individual whom I met when I was a State legislator at an American Legislative Exchange Council meeting, and I heard from JOHN LINDER in that meeting. I had no idea at the time I was going to get to be his colleague, and I had no idea at the time I would be able to yield some time to our national leader on the Fair Tax, Mr. JOHN LINDER.

Mr. LINDER. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for organizing this Special Order.

I think it might be good right now to repeat what the Fair Tax is.

The Fair Tax would repeal all taxes on income. No more corporate income tax, personal income tax, no more payroll tax. Most Americans pay more in payroll taxes than income taxes. That pays for Social Security and Medicare. We would get rid of the gift tax, the estate tax, the alternative minimum tax. No more tax on income at all. And instead, we would tax a national sales tax on everything that you purchased.

On average today, the average income American gives the government 33 cents out of every dollar he earns. Under the Fair Tax, they would give the government 23 cents out of every dollar they spend and raise the same amount of money.

Now we are going to come to this point because economic forces are going to drive us to this point. I had the privilege of visiting with Chairman Bernanke last week or 10 days ago or so. One day, whether I am here or not, this Congress is going to decide the only way to go is to a more fair tax, that taxes not what you put into society, but what you take out.

Today we know that on average, 22 percent of what you pay for is the embedded cost to the IRS. With all of the companies that it takes to get a loaf of bread to your table, there are payroll taxes, income taxes, there are compliance costs, they get embedded in that price system. That is the only way a business can pay a bill is through price. And you pay that business' light bill, their rent, and their tax bill.

If we have a price system that is inflated by 22 percent because of the embedded cost of the IRS, that makes us less than competitive in a global economy and jobs move into better tax jurisdictions offshore.

Secondly, the Tax Foundation said that last year we spent \$350 billion filling out IRS paperwork. We spend another \$125 billion a year calculating the tax implications of a business decision. If we are spending in excess of \$450 billion a year just to fill out forms to send them in, that is inefficient. That is stupid. It is like paying for a dead horse. You get nothing from the transaction.

Third, the underground economy is about \$2 trillion a year. And the more complex our code gets, the easier it is to go underground and avoid paying taxes. They are not contributing.

Fourth, there is today in offshore financial centers in dollar-denominated deposits \$13 trillion. My point to Chairman Bernanke was this: that is money that would be on shore in our markets, in our banks, if we didn't have an IRS.

All four of those issues: the embedded costs, the compliance costs, the underground economy, and the offshore investments, would be eliminated and fixed by getting rid of the IRS. None of them will be touched by nibbling around the edges of our current tax system.

Fifth is this point. We are having a serious problem starting in real estate in America because people can't afford to pay their mortgages. Some made bad choices, but that is a simple fact. Under the Fair Tax the average income earner would have a 50 percent increase in take-home pay. They would pay their mortgages. Now all of this stuff gets fixed in the economy without spending \$700 billion here and \$700 billion there without raising taxes and everything, as Mr. MICA said.

Lastly, this point: we have never taxed wealth in America; we tax wages. The first thing very wealthy people do is stop getting wages so they pay 15 percent on capital gains and dividends, and if the Obama plan goes through, they will pay a 20 percent tax. But they don't pay anything to Social Security

and Medicare because they have no wages.

When Mrs. Kerry had to release her tax return in 2004 during the Presidential election, it showed she had \$5.1 million in income the previous year. She paid a 12 percent tax on it. She paid nothing into Social Security and Medicare. She had no wages. This taxes wealth when it is spent. It is fair to assume that she spent a good part of that \$5 million on several houses and travel. And in that case if she had spent it all, she would have put \$400,000 into Social Security and Medicare, but we don't tax wealth when it is spent today.

Now what would happen if all of this comes to pass? Our studies from outside consultants say that in the first year we would have a 10.6 percent increase in the GDP. I asked Chairman Greenspan when he was chairman if that was inflationary, and he said not at all. We would have a 72 percent in capital spending, and we know that real take-home pay for workers increases in exact correspondence to capital spending.

We would have jobs coming here. An informal study done at Princeton many years ago asked 500 international companies located in Europe and Japan: What would you do in your long-term planning if the United States eliminated all taxes on capital and labor and taxed only personal consumption? Eighty percent said they would build their next plant in the United States.

If you are selling to Detroit, you would rather be in Detroit because transportation costs are high. But we have driven them off with tax policy.

We have lots of debates on the floor of this House, but punishing people who go offshore, locking up their accounts, they are not leaving because they hate America, they are leaving because we kicked them offshore with confiscatory tax policies.

This will come to pass, and it will be fair, and I hope one day we can give back to the American people and the freest society ever known the privilege of anonymity. No one should know as much about us as our Tax Code. We should have no agency of the Federal Government that knows more about us than we are willing to tell our children. Under this system, there would be no agency that knew how you made your money, how much you made, or how you spent it. You could anonymously go into any store, buy something, have the tax collected there just like we do in 45 States with the sales tax, and we would contract with those States to collect the money and remit it to us. We would have a system of government that was fair.

Let me just close with this comment. During the debate in 1912 when income tax was hot and heavy in the United States, one southern Senator made a statement that was considered so ridiculous and outrageous that he was laughed off the floor of the Senate. Here is what he said. He said, "Mark my words, if we pass this, in time they will be taking 10 percent of everything you earn." It was considered ridicu-

lous, but it did bring back to mind my favorite country song, if 10 percent is enough for Jesus, it ought to be enough for Uncle Sam.

□ 1715

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia. I know that this country is going to call upon him many times as we move forward in this debate.

I want to make the point that I have been challenged in the past, and people will say, well, I know that the Fair Tax is a great idea, I'm convinced that you're right on the economics of it—in fact, thinking economists won't disagree; but the rebuttal that I get is, well, you can't get it passed. My answer to that is, if it gets passed under two different scenarios. One is, if we elect a President who has run on it and receives a mandate from the American people for the Fair Tax. And the other one is, when you are in a downward economic spiral and Americans are actively looking for solutions, this is it.

I will yield back to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. LINDER. I think that is correct. And in the last Presidential election, Governor Huckabee did run on the Fair Tax. In your State, he won the Republican primary. And he told me he ran because of the Fair Tax Organization in Iowa. We have organizations in 50 States, and most States have dozens of them. These are people who, no matter that happens to me or you or the folks right now pushing this idea, they are not going to let it die. If you Google "Fair Tax," you will find that they are meeting in every State, every week. Somewhere along the way it winds up in the literature.

The American people are going to demand this. If you remember the debates from the Republican primary, it came up in virtually every debate and brought down the house. So I don't think it is going to go away because the American people are not going to allow it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman. This good idea, I don't know that it has ever lost a debate and probably never will.

I am looking around and I am seeing a lot of my colleagues from south of the Mason-Dixon line—I'm glad there is one from the north side of the Mason-Dixon line. But before we go there, I have never met a Republican from Tennessee I didn't like. And we have one on the floor with us tonight, Mr. Speaker, and that's Mr. DUNCAN from Tennessee. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. DUNCAN. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for yielding.

I want to say, first of all, that I will be very brief because there are several other people here who wish to speak. But I want to commend my friend, JOHN LINDER, who has worked so hard in advocating the Fair Tax. And I especially want to commend my good friend, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), for calling this Special Order tonight. The gentleman from Iowa has been a real leader, a real champion in

the fight to reduce our taxes and to try to bring Federal spending under some type of control.

This is my 21st year in Congress. And I'll tell you, I have seen some pretty mindboggling spending in that time, but even I have been shocked and astounded by all the spending that we have seen lately, and it just seems to be almost completely out of control. And in all this spending and legislation that we passed just in the last few months, in the midst of that, we've raised our national debt limit to 12 trillion, 104 billion. That's a mindboggling, incomprehensible figure. And nobody can really understand it or relate to it, but David Walker, as many of you know, the former head of the GAO, the Government Accountability Office, has been going around this country trying to be a Paul Revere to sound the warning to say that as troublesome and worrisome as the \$12 trillion national debt is, that an even greater problem is what he estimates are now \$56 trillion in unfunded future pension liabilities.

And I used to say that what we were doing to our children and grandchildren is terrible, but actually now I say what we're doing to ourselves, because I don't believe it's going to be more than 10 or 15 years, if that long, before we're not able to pay all our Social Security and Medicare and veterans' pensions and all of the things we have promised our own people with money that will buy anything. What we will do, we will do what governments all over the world have done when they have gotten in this situation, they have just started printing more money. And that never works; it's like a ball going downhill. It just means that what people thought was a good pension is not going to work, not going to support them at all.

And every place in this world where the people have let the government get out of control, what has happened is there have been a few elitists at the top, it has basically wiped out the middle class, and there has been a huge starvation class because that is the only thing big government is good at is wiping out the middle class.

I will say this; there is no good reason why we should have a tax code nearly as complicated, convoluted, and confusing as the one we have, where I have read that even half the advice the IRS itself gives out is wrong.

The Fair Tax certainly has a lot of merit to it. Mr. LINDER has pointed out so many things. But right now the people who are paying their taxes, their honest share of taxes, they're paying the taxes for the illegal immigrants and the drug dealers and those who work in the underground economy. Under the Fair Tax, the illegal immigrants and the drug dealers would have to start paying their fair share of taxes.

In addition to that, we have—I think it's 65 million foreign tourists. They would help us pay a Fair Tax. They don't help us pay an income tax. And as Mr. LINDER just said, we now spend \$350 billion just in filling out the tax forms. It is ridiculous that we have a system that is that complicated.

As the gentleman from Iowa pointed out a short time ago, the administration has submitted a \$3.9 trillion budget. I noticed that Jim Cramer, the famous stock analyst who is on television every night, he said President Obama's budget may be one of the great wealth destroyers of all time. And that is a significant statement coming from a man who has been a six-figure contributor to the Democratic Party. He said President Obama's budget may be one of the great wealth destroyers of all time. We don't need that, especially in this type of economy.

We don't have enough people who realize this; there is waste in the private sector just like there is waste in the public sector, but the waste in the private sector pales in comparison to the waste that is in the public sector because a business that continually wastes money will very soon go out of business, but a government agency that wastes money just seems to get increased funding. So what that means is that every dollar you can keep in the private sector will do more to create jobs and keep prices low than will any dollars turned over to the government. Yet, I saw on Lou Dobbs last night that in this past year, we've lost four million jobs in the private sector while government employment has increased by 151,000 over the past 12 months. At the same time that individuals and families all over this country are having to cut back, we are giving increases to the government.

The Washington Post, just after the House passed the stimulus—and they supported it, but they said it would mean “a massive financial windfall”—that's the words they used—“a massive financial windfall” for Federal agencies. So that is who is coming out good in this, the Federal bureaucrats, Federal agencies. And this area, which was already one of the wealthiest areas in the country, is going to come out just fine under this stimulus package and under this increased spending we're doing.

But about the time we were voting on this stimulus package, 203 leading university economists ran a full-page ad in the Washington Times and they said this: “We, the undersigned, do not believe that more government spending is a way to improve economic performance. More government spending by Hoover and Roosevelt did not pull the United States economy out of the Great Depression of the 1930s. More government spending did not solve Japan's “lost decade” in the 1990s. As such, it is a triumph of hope over experience to believe that more government spending will help the U.S. today.”

And these economists continued and said this: “To improve the economy, policymakers should focus on reforms that remove impediments to work, saving, investment, and production. Lower tax rates and a reduction in the burden of government are the best ways of using fiscal policy to boost growth.”

I will just wind up with a couple more comments. Edward Rendell, the Governor of Pennsylvania, when he was the Mayor of Philadelphia, testified in front of a congressional committee and he said this: “The problem with government is that there is no incentive for people to work hard, so many do not. There is no incentive to save money, so much of it is squandered.” And that pretty much sums it up. And that pretty much sums up why the more money you turn over to the government, the less it helps the economy. It helps those who are in with the government, but if you want to really help the poor people and the lower income people in this country, then you will try every way possible to keep more money in the private sector.

We are going in the opposite direction today. I noticed that even the liberal New York Times reporter asked President Obama a few days ago if he was a socialist. And that is the path we're headed down. They may try to deny it. Socialism, though, has not worked anywhere in this world; if it had, the Soviet Union and Cuba would have been heaven on Earth.

I could say more, but I will stop because others want to speak. Once again, I want to commend my friend, the gentleman from Iowa, for bringing us together here tonight. Thank you very much.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for coming to the floor and engaging in this discussion.

Mr. Speaker, as we move through this and we get down to the last 10 minutes available in this hour, I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I am very happy to be here this evening to address my colleagues on this important issue of the Fair Tax and pay tribute to our colleague from Georgia, Representative JOHN LINDER. Representative LINDER, from the Seventh Congressional District of Georgia, is a long-term Member of this body, is former chairman of the NRCC, long-term vice chairman of the Rules Committee, and now a member of the Ways and Means Committee. And Mr. Speaker, he knows of what he says in regard to the Fair Tax.

I think JOHN is absolutely right. And I am just, as I say, proud to be here and be his colleague and to have an opportunity to weigh in, in support of the Fair Tax. My only regret—or one of my biggest regrets—since I've been here is that when we had the majority on our side of the aisle, we lost the opportunity, didn't take the opportunity. It

wasn't because of JOHN's lack of ethics, however. And I think he is absolutely right; if we live long enough—Lord willing—we're going to see the elimination of the 16th amendment, and that is, obliterate the income tax and replace it with the Fair Tax. I think this country will be much more competitive.

I could stand here and take up the rest of the time, but I know my other colleague from Georgia is here and he wants to speak.

I want to thank the gentleman from Iowa for conducting this Special Order tonight. And I thank him for the time that he gave me to weigh in, in support of JOHN LINDER and the Fair Tax. And I yield back.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia, my good, long-time friend from the first day I arrived in this Congress. I look forward to more of these opportunities in this fashion.

To conserve our time, I will happily and quickly yield to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. BROWN.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if a study were done on facial expressions made during a word association test, the results would show that most people's facial expression given the word “taxes” would be strikingly similar to that as when they were asked to recall the last time that they stubbed their toe or they smashed their finger with a hammer. Just as each physical injury has left a memory of pain and discomfort, so has each tax season burned a memory of stress and anger into the minds of most Americans.

As many of you may know, I am an original-intent constitutionalist. I believe the Federal Government was not established to tax and spend; it was established to protect freedom and liberty. Yet, here we are today trying to solve our Nation's economic woes through an outdated and failed philosophy of more taxes, more spending, more borrowing, and an overall belief that more government is the solution. How many times, Mr. Speaker, will we hit ourselves in the thumb with an economic hammer before we realize that this is not the way to approach our problems? As the great Winston Churchill once said, “For a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.”

With the tax filing deadline just around the corner and many Georgia families struggling to figure out how they will pay off Uncle Sam this year, now is the time to do away with our terrible tax system, scrap this tax-and-spend mentality so we can go about a better way to get this country back on track.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that one great way to reform our tax system would be to institute the Fair Tax, which I'm an ardent supporter, a system that would replace all Federal

With the tax filing deadline just around the corner and many Georgia families struggling to figure out how they will pay off Uncle Sam this year, now is the time to do away with our terrible tax system, scrap this tax-and-spend mentality so we can go about a better way to get this country back on track.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that one great way to reform our tax system would be to institute the Fair Tax, which I'm an ardent supporter, a system that would replace all Federal taxes with one single retail sales tax. Just imagine the money that would flow into our economy if hardworking Americans were actually allowed to keep more of their money that they earned, if they didn't see increasing amounts being taken by a government that can't even pass a balanced budget, much less operate on one.

□ 1730

However, it would be foolish to only discuss reforming our tax system without addressing its soul mate, and that is government spending. Skyrocketing growth in government spending by both Congress and Presidents, regardless of political party, has grown to a level of astronomical proportions. Spending by the Federal Government has more than doubled since 1980 and tripled since 1965. Recent history has shown us that cutting taxes is not a viable solution if we do not also address our gluttonous spending.

This government exists for the sole purpose of serving the people, but for too many years, government has been merely serving itself. It has taxed and spent itself into a debt that shows no signs of receding.

You see, this is something that seems to have been forgotten by Congress and by this administration. To spend these huge increases as they are proposing, they must first take it way from people through taxes. And what happens when there are not enough taxes to cover all the increased spending? They simply increase taxes, often through new and creative methods, while also increasing our Federal debt.

In 1930 the U.S. Tax Code was a brisk 500 pages long. Today it has swollen to more than 45,000 pages, full of provisions that too often produce negative results. A Fair Tax system, empowering the American people to decide how much taxes they'll pay through their own purchasing decisions, will force this spending-engorged government to change their ways and enact fiscally responsible budgets.

In addition, a Fair Tax system will move the responsibility of taxing citizens back to the States, simplifying the process, and remove the temptation by Congress and the administration to feed their growing appetites at the smorgasbord that is our current tax system.

Often when I'm at home talking with my constituents in Georgia about taxes, I tell them if 10 percent is good

enough for the Lord, it ought to be good enough for Uncle Sam. We have to reduce the size of government and government spending to achieve this heavenly goal. Under the original intent of our Constitution, 10 percent would be more than enough to fund all of the functions of the Federal Government as envisioned by our founders.

I call on my colleagues to listen to the American people who are demanding a better system. We can and should give it to them by reducing Federal Government spending and reforming our tax system by enacting the Fair Tax.

I congratulate my dear colleague from Iowa for allowing me to speak and bringing this very, very important issue to the forefront of the American people.

We have to stop spending. We are spending too much. We are taxing too much. We are borrowing too much. And it's going to kill our economy. I call this a steamroll of socialism being shoved down the throats of the American people that's going to strangle our economy. It's going to slay the American people economically if we don't stop it. Thank you so much.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for coming down and joining in this discussion, Mr. Speaker, and I am hopeful that we will have many more like this.

I want to reiterate a point that I made at the conclusion of Mr. LINDER's delivery, and that is, as he went down through the list of all the taxes that get eliminated, corporate and personal income tax and payroll tax and inheritance tax and the list goes on and on and on, the Fair Tax provides an incentive for earnings, savings, and investment. Here's my point, and I want to make this clear and I will stand on it and I'll defend it and I have made this statement across the country, and it is this: The Fair Tax does everything good that anybody's tax proposal does that is good for our economy and the American people. It does all of them and it does them all better.

Now, that sounds like a real big position to take, and I'm taking it because I'm solid in that, and I'm happy to debate that. I'd be happy to debate anybody from the other side of the aisle that can come over here and tell me that any part of that's wrong and then let's have that discussion. When you take the punishment off of people who are producing, earning, saving, and investing, and you let them earn, save, and invest all they want to produce, and then you provide that incentive for that savings and investment on the other side, as John Linder said, the Fair Tax eliminates the taxes on capital and labor.

Now, Adam Smith said the sum total of the cost of anything that you produce or buy is the cost of the capital plus the cost of the labor. But we are taxing all capital and labor in America under the Federal income tax along with the whole array of other

Federal taxes that we have. We have to be able to give that all back and let people earn, save, and invest all they want to earn, save, and invest. And I just urge that this Congress take a look at this Fair Tax. And let's get some hearings. Let's get something moving through the Ways and Means Committee. Let's continue to make this point.

Also, I will say this: I came to this conclusion in 1980. That's 29 years ago. I have looked at this Rubik's Cube of the Fair Tax every way I can possibly turn it. I turn it one way and another way. The colors show a little bit differently, but every time I turn it again, it looks better and better and better. The more I know about it, the better I like it. And I don't know if anybody has studied it as long as I have, 29 years, before there was anybody that had any science, any background on this. I took this to the people and economists and the tax lawyers that I knew.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank you for yielding.

I want to just point out that you have been a leader on this Fair Tax and trying to offer solutions. Republicans have offered solution after solution after solution to energy, to housing, to taxes, to the spending; and the leadership has totally denied us from bringing this forward to the American public. And I congratulate you for being a leader in this regard.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia and all the participants.

THE SUBPRIME HOUSING CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include extraneous material in the RECORD thereof as I proceed this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to oscillate, and the world markets with it, it is good to remind ourselves of some economic fundamentals so we can fix what ails us. Let us return to the opening fact: The proximate cause of America's downturn is the subprime housing crisis. It is not abating. Until America addresses that, our economy will continue to bleed.

Washington is obstinately refusing to address that head-on. Six thousand six hundred homes enter foreclosure across this country every day. That is one home, one family every 13 seconds. Instead, Washington seems to still be just picking at the edges of the glaring headlights facing us.

The President today, in the wake of AIG's giving AIG executives hundreds and hundreds more millions of dollars, taxpayer dollars, in bonuses, has stated the need for overall financial regulatory reform. He is right. America needs more than executive bonus reform, however. That only represents a wart on a very large elephant, of hundreds of billions and, indeed, trillions of dollars irresponsibly managed and the burden of resolution being put on our taxpayers, on their children, on their grandchildren. The executive and legislative branches of our government must dive in and reform this out-of-control financial marketplace. The Republic and our citizens deserve no less. The question for history is whether this Congress will meet its constitutional obligations to protect and defend the Republic.

It is time that Wall Street and the megabanks saw the writing on the wall. Yet they seem hell-bent at resistance. Wall Street's response of putting its head in the sand and their hands in our pockets should be over. AIG's bonuses are merely the latest sign, like a big canary in the mine shaft sign, of Wall Street's high arrogance and its real power, I repeat, its real power, over the American people and the institutions that govern us. The voices of the people are not being fully heard. Wall Street's latest racketeering and ransacking of our Republic trumps anything they have done in the past.

Let us recall the savings and loan debacle back in the 1980s when financial institutions dumped \$150 billion of their bad debts onto the American people, onto their children. It was a huge load. In fact, we're still paying it. It became the third largest share of our Nation's long-term debt. We're paying for it until today. It gets hidden in the overall debt but it's in there. But Wall Street and the megabanks had no remorse. They smelled blood. They got away with what they did. And they learned something from that fiasco. They were able to wash their hands of responsibility. They got away with it.

They then worked like eager beavers to change the laws of this country so that they could do even more. So much more. The savings and loan bailout marks the point in time when the largest financial institutions in this country figured out that they could push this Congress around and the President around, and they were emboldened by what they did. And they not only have ever since, and royally, I might add, but they have done so at a magnitude that is unprecedented. Who knows how deep the hole is this time around? They've already dumped \$700 billion of their bills already directly on the American people, six times more than the last time.

And on top of that, who knows really what debt the Federal Reserve is racking up in its hidden transactions, furiously assembled at its own counting house. Those secret transactions merely tell us how far out of control

our elected representatives have been distanced from the government they are sworn to defend against all enemies.

After the big banks were rewarded 20 years ago by forcing the public to pick up their dirty laundry, they enlarged their thievery during the 1990s with a vengeance. Once most of America's thrift and home loan institutions were destroyed along with the savings ethic that had been embedded into the law, the megabanks set in place a massive racket to exploit and draw down the accumulated savings that were left, you can call it equity, of the American people represented in their homes, in the housing market. Wall Street and the megabanks accomplished their goal. They drew down huge sums of equity from homeowners through scheme after conceivable scheme. Yes, they sucked out the value of what homeowners actually owned, not owed but owned, in their homes. Their schemes were masterful and they were morally wrong.

Look in neighborhood after neighborhood in this country. I bet your property values have come down. If you're not losing your home, you've been impacted by it. Your equity has been lessened. They got to you too. They got to almost every single household in this country.

□ 1745

How did they do it? They had millions of schemes. Take widows' loans, widow, w-i-d-o-w. This was the rotten racket by which Wall Street's sharp-pencil boys preyed on grief-stricken women who had just lost their husbands, unethical moneymen at white-shoe Wall Street institutions like Citigroup, through its CitiFinancial, no less, drilled into that segment of the market for every penny they could exact.

They promised widows—and they followed the obituaries to find them—they promised widows that now that their husbands were gone, they needn't worry about their finances into the future. Just sign on the dotted line and an equity bonanza would be yielded to that widow.

They failed to mention that in a few years the widow's mortgage payments would more than double. But who was to worry? Tragic, yes, but true. Did it happen, yes, over and over and over again.

And those who worked for CitiFinancial across this Nation, and I am sure some are listening this evening, some refused to do that. They left their firms or they were terminated, but others did it.

And every time they did it, they got a bonus on that widow's refinancing. I can't imagine how those people can sleep at night. That's how they made their money.

Congress needs to hear from those widows. I know they are out there. What happened to them, in my opinion, was criminal.

So the subprime housing implosion is the proximate cause of our downturn. But I have a question, why is our government not fully using the normal institutions that could resolve the crisis on the books of the financial institutions involved, the FDIC, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Why aren't we?

Last week we heard from the former chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation who served both Republican and Democratic Presidents back in the 1980s, Mr. William Isaac, who is published in *Investment Dealers' Digest* this week, an article I am going to quote from. He essentially resolved and successfully resolved over 3,000 insolvent banks back in the 1980s.

Every bank in Texas went down but one. Continental Bank of Illinois went down. He resolved those without a cost to the public. His answer to what we face is follows, a four-point alternative to the bailout bill. Implement a program that would ease the fears of depositors and other general creditors of banks. You do that through the FDIC and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

No. 2, you reinstitute restrictions on short sellers. You do that through legislation or the SEC could do that. They haven't.

No. 3, you could suspend or alter substantially mark-to-market accounting which has contributed to mightily to our current problems by marking assets to unrealistic fire-sale prices. We could authorize a net worth certificate program, that authority still exists. FDIC needs to use it.

We could settle the financial markets, he says, without significant expense to taxpayers. This would leave \$700 billion of dry powder we could put to work in targeted tax incentives, if needed, to get the economy moving again.

But why hasn't Washington done what he suggests? Perhaps it's because the megabanks and their Wall Street patrons relish the world of greed in which they float. And, frankly, they have worked very hard and spent billions in lobbying fees and campaign contributions to set up the world just the way they like it, and they have been rewarded handsomely. They are still being rewarded very handsomely.

They don't want to lose their grip. After all, they have figured it all out. From every angle, they know even that congressional elections are cheap. They are now the largest contributors, Wall Street, that is, to congressional elections and Presidential races. They figure about \$3 million a seat in here and a few hundred million for a President. You add those all up, it doesn't even equal what we put in to the AIG bailout for the entire Congress of the United States.

The castle that Wall Street built, and which it is defending now at all costs, was built at the price of great harm to this republic. I believe that the situation can right itself, but it will take

the American people taking back their power through us, those that they elect.

The situation we face did not happen overnight. As I stated, it grew out of the savings and loan crisis. And let's look back at the late 1980s and 1990s, in the 1990s, activities began and a plan was set in place by Wall Street and the largest money-center banks, and I will name them, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, HSBC, Wachovia and Wells Fargo—Wells Fargo and Bank of America down in Charlotte—to overleverage our U.S. housing market through such schemes as mortgage-backed securities and home-equity loans to make extraordinary profits and enrich executives, boards and their shareholders. We know some of their names, but it's amazing how they can avoid the public limelight.

The net result of their combined actions has been to indebt our Nation on the private side with our families and ultimately shift the cost of what they have done, their excesses, to the public realm.

The Wall Street and Wall Street-related institutions lobbied to change Federal laws, along with executive actions, that aided and abetted their plan. In 1994, the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act was passed into law with Congress hastening bank mergers, resulting in the further concentration of financial power in money center banks, most often leading to Wall Street.

And in local communities across this country, what happened was banks that had been headquartered in towns and cities began to disappear, as they were gobbled up by money center banks far from home. And communities across this country became derivative money centers of a headquartered bank a very long way home. Think about where you live. Think about what happened in your community.

With the passage of the Riegle-Neal bill, what changed was this, the traditional concept of community banking where residential lending took the form of a loan which was made on the time-tested standards of character, collateral and collectability, was transformed into a bond and then security, which was broken into pieces and then sold into, ultimately, the international market, where you can't even find it, largely through Wall Street dealers. Essentially, collateral was overvalued, the value of the house became overvalued.

Risk was masked and proper underwriting and oversight of the loans was dispensed with. Thus began the silent eroding of our Nation's community banks. They are not all gone, but they are fewer, and they are burdened unfairly by the economy Wall Street-money centered banks have delivered to them and us.

In addition, in the years of 1993 and 1994, there were changes made at the Department of Housing and Urban De-

velopment that removed normal underwriting standards. For example, HUD's mortgage letter, 93-2, "Mandatory Direct Endorsement Processing," gave authority to home builder-owned lenders like KB Mortgage and affiliate lenders like Countrywide to independently approve their own loans.

Then in 1994, HUD mortgage letter 94-54 allowed lenders to select their own appraisers. How do you like that?

Secretary of HUD Henry Cisneros, upon departure from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, became a KB Home board member as well as a Countrywide board member. So as a public servant of the highest order, with the trust of the President and all those at HUD, Mr. Cisneros appears to have leveraged his position to his own benefit. Of course, appearances can be deceptive, and sometimes appearances are spot on.

Continuing on, Mr. Speaker, in 1995 Congress passed, over my objection, the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act. This bill was the only bill ever passed by Congress over a Clinton veto, and it was part of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America. This law made securities class action lawsuits more difficult.

In fact, Representative ED MARKEY of Massachusetts offered an amendment to that bill that would have made those that sold derivatives still subject to class actions. But his amendment was not accepted, and it never passed.

Back in those days, I can remember when the Securities and Exchange chair, Brooksley Born, made public statements talking about the necessity to regulate the derivatives market, what she saw happening. She was forced out of the SEC. I nominate her for a gold medal.

In 1999 Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act passed Congress, and for the first time since the 1930s removed the regulatory barriers that existed between banks and insurance and real estate and commerce. It was like all the rules were thrown out.

Insurance companies got into derivatives, securities houses got into housing and real estate, America's banking system was turned inside out. Over the next several years, the fury of an inflating housing market and mergers of financial institutions increased.

To illustrate the general pattern of behavior, an interesting case to follow is that of investment bank Wasserstein Perella of New York and Chicago. It wasn't the largest, but one can follow and track it.

In 2001, at the height of the mortgage bubble, it merged with Dresdner Bank of Germany, taking with it volumes of U.S. subprime paper. Today, Dresdner, which is the second largest bank in Germany, has been victimized by the subprime crisis and has been put up for sale. It is likely being acquired by Commerzbank in Germany, which is owned by their largest insurance group, Allianz Insurance Group of Germany. They have the same kinds of insurance problems as we do.

The question is, on behalf of which institutions did Wasserstein Perella move the subprime paper? Equally interesting is, effective June 5, 2008, last year, Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein Securities was listed on Federal Reserve Bank of New York's private government securities dealers' list. They are right on the inside. They are more on the inside than my neighbors are back in Ohio where 10 percent of our homes have been foreclosed. This means a foreign institution with severe financial problems is brought under the umbrella of the U.S. Federal Reserve.

In fact, if you review the list of troubled money center banks, most of them are now listed on the preferred primary dealers' list at the Federal Reserve. The Fed is starting to look like the encampment of the most culpable.

This brings me back to AIG. This weekend, AIG grudgingly released the names of the banks that they had to pay related to the credit default swaps on securities that failed. So AIG had to pay on those failures.

Who did they pay with taxpayer dollars that bailed them out and continued to bail them out over and over to a level of \$176 billion and beyond?

You know the No. 1 company? As of Monday this week, Goldman Sachs. Well, they got \$12.9 billion, Goldman Sachs. That's where the last two Secretaries of the Treasury have come from, both in Democratic and Republican administrations. We have a new Secretary of Treasury now who came from the New York Federal Reserve.

I will insert in the RECORD the The New York Times article by Mary Williams Walsh.

[From the New York Times, Washington Edition]

FIRMS TO WHICH IT PAID TAXPAYER MONEY
TRACKING THE BAILOUT
FOREIGN AND U.S. BANKS WERE GIVEN BILLIONS
AGAINST BAD DEBT
(By Mary Williams Walsh)

Amid rising pressure from Congress and taxpayers, the American International Group on Sunday released the names of dozens of financial institutions that benefited from the Federal Reserve's decision last fall to save the giant insurer from collapse with a huge rescue loan.

Financial companies that received multi-billion-dollar payments owed by A.I.G. include Goldman Sachs (\$12.9 billion), Merrill Lynch (\$6.8 billion), Bank of America (\$5.2 billion), Citigroup (\$2.3 billion) and Wachovia (\$1.5 billion).

Big foreign banks also received large, sums from the rescue, including Société Générale of France and Deutsche Bank of Germany, which each received nearly \$12 billion; Barclays of Britain (\$8.5 billion); and UBS of Switzerland (\$5 billion).

A.I.G. also named the 20 largest states, starting with California, that stood to lose billions last fall because A.I.G. was holding money they had raised with bond sales.

In total, A.I.G. named nearly 80 companies and municipalities that benefited most from the Fed rescue, though many more that received smaller payments were left out.

The list, long sought by lawmakers, was released a day after the disclosure that A.I.G. was paying out hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses to executives at the A.I.G.

division where the company's crisis originated. That drew anger from Democratic and Republican lawmakers alike on Sunday and left the Obama administration scrambling to distance itself from A.I.G.

"There are a lot of terrible things that have happened in the last 18 months, but what's happened at A.I.G. is the most outrageous," Lawrence H. Summers, an economic adviser to President Obama who was Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration, said Sunday on "This Week" on ABC. He said the administration had determined that it could not stop the bonuses.

But some members of Congress expressed outrage over the bonuses. Representative Elijah E. Cummings, a Democrat of Maryland who had demanded more information about the bonuses last December, accused the company's chief executive, Edward M. Liddy, of rewarding reckless business practices.

"A.I.G. has been trying to play the American people for fools by giving nearly \$1 billion in bonuses by the name of retention payments," Mr. Cummings said on Sunday. "These payments are nothing but a reward for obvious failure, and it is an egregious offense to have the American taxpayers foot the bill."

An A.I.G. spokeswoman said Sunday that the company would not identify the recipients of these bonuses, citing privacy obligations.

Ever since the insurer's rescue began, with the Fed's \$85 billion emergency loan last fall, there have been demands for a full public accounting of how the money was used. The taxpayer assistance has now grown to \$170 billion, and the government owns nearly 80 percent of the company.

But the insurance giant has refused until now to disclose the names of its trading partners, or the amounts they received, citing business confidentiality.

A.I.G. finally relented after consulting with the companies that received the government support. The company's chief executive, Edward M. Liddy, said in a statement on Sunday: "Our decision to disclose these transactions was made following conversations with the counterparties and the recognition of the extraordinarily nature of these transactions."

Still, the disclosure is not likely to calm the ire aimed at the company and its trading partners.

The Fed chairman, Ben S. Bernanke, appearing on "60 Minutes" on CBS on Sunday night, said: "Of all the events and all of the things we've done in the last 18 months, the single one that makes me the angriest, that gives me the most angst, is the intervention with A.I.G."

He went on: "Here was a company that made all kinds of unconscionable bets. Then, when those bets went wrong, they had a—we had a situation where the failure of that company would have brought down the financial system."

In deciding to rescue A.I.G., The government worried that if it did not bail out the company, its collapse could lead to a cascading chain reaction of losses, jeopardizing the stability of the worldwide financial system.

The list released by A.I.G. on Sunday, detailing payments made between September and December of last year, could bolster that justification by illustrating the breadth of losses that might have occurred had A.I.G. been allowed to fail. Some of the companies, like Goldman Sachs and Société Générale, had exposure mainly through A.I.G.'s derivatives program. Others, though, like Barclays and Citigroup, stood to lose mainly because they were customers of A.I.G.'s securities-lending program, which does not involve derivatives.

But taxpayers may have a hard time accepting that so many marquee financial companies—including some American banks that received separate government help and others based overseas—benefiting from government money.

The outrage that has been aimed at A.I.G. could complicate the Obama administration's ability to persuade Congress to authorize future bailouts.

Patience with the company's silence began to run out this month after it disclosed the largest loss in United States history and had to get a new round of government support. Members of Congress demanded in two hearings to know who was benefiting from the bailout and threatened to vote against future bailouts for anybody if they did not get the information.

"A.I.G.'s trading partners were not innocent victims here," said Senator Christopher J. Dodd, the Connecticut Democrat who presided over one recent hearing. "They were sophisticated investors who took enormous, irresponsible risks."

The anger peaked over the weekend when correspondence surfaced showing that A.I.G. was on the brink of paying rich bonuses to executives who had dealt in the derivative contracts at the center of A.I.G.'s troubles.

Representative Barney Frank, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, implicitly questioned the Treasury Department's judgment about the whether the bonuses were binding.

"We need to find out whether these bonuses are legally recoverable," Mr. Frank said in an interview Sunday on Fox News.

Many of the institutions that received the Fed payments were owed money by A.I.G. because they had bought its credit derivatives—in essence, a type of insurance intended to protect buyers should their investments turn sour.

As it turned out, many of their investments did sour, because they were linked to subprime mortgages and other shaky loans. But A.I.G. was suddenly unable to honor its promises last fall, leaving its trading partners exposed to potentially big losses.

When A.I.G. received its first rescue loan of \$85 billion from the Fed, in September, it forwarded about \$22 billion to the companies holding its shakiest derivatives contracts. Those contracts required large collateral payments if A.I.G.'s credit was downgraded, as it was that month.

Among the beneficiaries of the government rescue were Wall Street firms, like Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan and Merrill Lynch that had argued in the past that derivatives were valuable risk-management tools that skilled investors could use wisely without any intervention from federal regulators. Initiatives to regulate financial derivatives were beaten back during the administrations of Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Goldman Sachs had said in the past that its exposure to A.I.G.'s financial trouble was "immaterial." A Goldman Sachs representative was not reachable on Sunday to address whether that characterization still held. When asked about its exposure to A.I.G. in the past, Goldman Sachs has said that it used hedging strategies with other investments to reduce its exposure.

Until last fall's liquidity squeeze, A.I.G. officials also dismissed those who questioned its derivatives operation, saying losses were out of the question.

BENEFICIARIES OF A RESCUE

The American International Group on Sunday released the names of financial institutions that benefited last fall when the Federal Reserve saved it from collapse with an \$85 billion rescue loan. The Fed paid A.I.G.'s

obligations to the following companies, among others:

Institution	Amount (in billions)
Goldman Sachs	\$12.9
Société Générale	11.9
Deutsche Bank	11.8
Barclays	8.5
Merrill Lynch	6.8
Bank of America	5.2
UBS	5.0
BNP Paribas	4.9
HSBC	3.5
Citigroup	2.3
Calyon	2.3
Dresdner Kleinwort	2.2
Wachovia	1.5
ING	1.5
Morgan Stanley	1.2
Bank of Montreal	1.1

But it's very interesting which firms get special treatment. Several of the AIG infusions of money that came from the U.S. taxpayers are foreign based. Societe Generale of France, \$12 billion; Deutsche Bank of Germany, \$12 billion; Barclays of Britain, \$8.5 billion; UBS of Switzerland, \$5 billion; Dresdner, \$2.2 billion; foreign banks paid with U.S. taxpayer dollars?

The American taxpayers are becoming the insurance company for Wall Street and global banks. Think about that one.

There is simply no way for us to pay our way out of this, because without mark-to-market accounting being engaged, that is destroying more capital inside these banks than we can possibly make up for with the debt we are assuming as the risk is passed on to the American people.

□ 1800

Besides Goldman Sachs in our country, Merrill Lynch got \$6.8 billion through AIG; Bank of America, \$5.2 billion; Citigroup, \$2.3 billion; Wachovia, \$12.5 billion. All banks are receiving TARP funds, too. So it's almost like double dipping into taxpayer dollars. Oh, my, is it time for major reform.

Mr. Speaker, this past week Congress took some steps forward toward real reform, and I'd like to highlight a couple of them and thank those who made them possible. I'd like to begin by thanking House Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK for not only permitting, but attending the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises hearing on mark-to-market accounting. This is the bullseye at the center of the target.

In addition, I wish to extend my gratitude for his leadership to the chairman of that Committee, Representative PAUL KANJORSKI, and the ranking member, Representative SCOTT GARRETT, whose opposition to the Wall Street bailout is as strong as mine, for allowing me to participate in that hearing although I am not on that subcommittee.

I'd also like to congratulate the staff on the subcommittee for a job well done. This hearing was informative on many levels. It is clear that reform of the mark-to-market system is a bipartisan issue. Congress surely would prefer that the industry itself privately,

through the Federal Accounting Standards Board, make the necessary changes to properly account for and subsequently protect institutions. But that appears to be log jammed.

Though not an easy task, time and time again in the hearing the Federal Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the Department of the Treasury were told to take action or Congress would take action. I hope that they listen, too, because I know my colleagues can take action, and they surely must.

Three weeks was given as the timeline for FASB and its collaborators to take action. Chairman KANJORSKI already has a hearing date blocked out for the week we return from our April break to follow up as necessary. I thank him for that.

Congress is, for now, expecting and hoping that those who are in charge of regulation will do so, so we do not have to. They, together, are the experts, and should see to the necessity for making these improvements.

All in all, his hearing was a very good one. I commend it to those who are listening to look at that RECORD. We heard excellent testimony from not one, but two panels of experts and people in the field. Yet, for me, and some other Members, the day's work was not complete yet, even though the last votes of the week had been cast.

This takes me to my second round of thank-you's. After Representative KANJORSKI's hearing ended, multiple members attended an informational briefing in the Capitol with the two former Chairmen of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation who helped America dig out from that big hole of the 1980s and that last banking crisis so we could learn from their experience.

These crises were far larger than what we faced at the beginning of this one, but this one has been mishandled, and every day it gets worse. So we have much to learn from them. Yet, lack of appropriate resolution to date in our current situation made their appearance even more important.

I wish to thank Majority Leader STENY HOYER for his interest in this discussion, and I wish to thank Mr. William Seidman and Mr. William Isaac for traveling here to the Capitol to share their experiences, these two amazing Americans who have so much to say, and we thank them for their records as senior statesmen and as successful regulators who actually did something right to stabilize our ship of State when it was so desperately needed. We need to hear their voices more.

Tonight, however, I am moderated in my optimism because of those meetings last week and because of Treasury's actions toward AIG. And I want to place on the record some of the following. AIG was the largest insurance company in our country. It collapsed last September due to its mega in-

volvement in insuring mortgage-backed securities.

Prudent lending has been thrown out the window for a very long time, and basically the system that has been set up has taken the individual mortgage loan—let's say this is your mortgage that was arranged at your local lending institution—and what happened across our country in the past was that when you would go to a bank and you would get a mortgage locally, you might have deposits in that bank, and the bank could only loan 10 times more than the level of deposits in that institution.

A system was set up in our country where, when you took the loan out, that loan was purchased. Usually it went to the Federal Housing Administration or the Federal National Mortgage Association here. But it had never really been taken into the international market.

What they did under this new system was rather than having the 10 to 1 lending ratio to capital deposit, what Wall Street did is it had a ratio of 1 to 100. It took \$1 and it turned it into \$100—10 times more than ever had been done in history—terribly imprudent, terribly irresponsible, terribly high risk—and they leveraged the whole Republic.

Mortgage firms will tell you that often the value of your mortgage, the underlying value of your home, was really too small for their tastes. If your house was only worth \$50,000 or \$100,000, or even \$250,000 for them that is small potatoes. And what they wanted to do was figure out a system where they could take lots of mortgage loans. And what they did was they took them from all around the country, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of loans, and then they figured out what they will do is they will take this mortgage loan, all these mortgage loans, and what they did was they sold them together.

So what they did was they created these instruments where they literally put these loans together and then they sent them up the line of command, and what Wall Street did, they said, Well, let's see. What is that worth? Let's take the risk out of this.

So what they did was they took all these loans and they cut them up into pieces. What they did was they broke the mortgage up into little pieces and then they took all of those pieces and they packaged them—they mixed them all up and they packaged them into a security. Can you find your loan?

All of a sudden, your loan lost its individual character. It's sort of like the walnut shell game. Where is your mortgage in here?

Wall Street cannot unwind the securities that it has now even sold into the international market. That's why what's happening is so hard to unwind. They bundled some really bad loans where they had poor underwriting and poor appraisal practices with very good loans. But when they cut them all up, who knows where your loan really is, and the prudent oversight at the local

level, since your local bank no longer really had that loan and you started sending your mortgage check to places far away from home, most of which ended up on Wall Street or in one of these money center banks. Well, you get the picture.

Just to make it more interesting, what AIG did was took all those cut-up securities and they sold insurance that they called credit-default swaps on those mortgage-backed securities, and they had to pay out on that insurance that was sold as our housing market started to deteriorate and mortgages began to fail. But, you know what? They did it through an office in London. This just gets more interesting—where the meltdown of AIG actually began.

You see, the insurance market is regulated, but what they did with it, with credit-default swaps, that isn't regulated. Nobody was really in charge of that. So they hid a lot of this. They hid a lot of what was going on and they created almost like a Ponzi scheme. And I have been saying to homeowners across the country, If you get a foreclosure notice, don't leave your property. Get a lawyer. Because until you actually get your own note back, until they piece it back together and you get your original loan, how do you know that you have signed a legal note?

What if you have a widow's loan and they cheated you? What if you had a predatory loan? Make sure you can get your entire note back, and you need legal representation through your Fair Housing offices in order to do that.

The castle that Wall Street built—and which it is defending now at all costs because it has made an enormous amount of money. Some people have made an enormous amount of money. Some of those houses that securitized these loans, half of their profit went to the executives in those companies.

What they have done has been at great price to our Republic. The situation we face can right itself if the new President and if the leaders of this Congress listen to those Americans who have actually resolved serious banking crises before.

To date, those voices have not been allowed to rise because, in my opinion, Wall Street has too much power and they can block, just like in football, there's somebody that is the quarterback. They can carry that ball right down the field. But not without the blockers being there. What is happening is some of these important voices are being blocked by those who have enormous power.

Members of Congress must also remember that we represent our constituents and our communities. Their votes got us here and their votes can return us or not return us. Congress needs to get in and get dirty in solving this problem, just like our predecessors did, and find the truth, whatever it takes.

We saw this begin last week at Representative KANJORSKI's hearing. Congress needs to do what is right and not

what is easy. Congress doesn't need to be cowardly. Our Nation and our citizens expect no less than what Daniel Webster's quote says right up on that wall, and that is "to do something in our time and generation worthy to be remembered."

It is far overdue for real banking reform in this country and the return of financial power back to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my remaining time.

CARBON TAX AND THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KOSMAS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I come to the floor tonight—and I will be joined by a couple of my colleagues—to talk about the President's budget and the issue of the carbon tax proposed therein.

Part of the President's budget submission is \$686 billion raised by a carbon tax. This poses a serious number of questions, and I will highlight the history and then talk about how that addresses a concern from, really, a large part of this country, especially the Midwest.

When the 1990 Clean Air Act passed and was signed into law, a mining operation in my congressional district, Peabody Mine #10, which is located right here, a big facility, very efficient, and the great thing about this facility was that right across the street and down the road was a coal-fired generating plant.

So you have what you hear a lot of people talk about today, a mine mouth operation, where you have the coal located underground and you have the power plant on the surface. So you save in the aspect of transportation either by rail or by truck.

What happened under the Clean Air Amendments of 1990 is what will happen as we move to a carbon-constrained regime when we monetize carbon, is that in this process there will be winners and losers. So I am coming to the floor tonight to talk about who these people are and why are they in this debate. One of the most clearly identified losers in a cap-and-tax regime are the miners.

□ 1815

Now, we hear a lot about green jobs, but I can guarantee you that the green jobs created will in no way match the loss of the fossil fuel industry in this country. And when I say fossil fuel, I talk about all the fossil fuel regimes, from coal to crude oil to natural gas. And we could go, as we talked about last fall oil shale, we could talk about the tar sands, vast resources of energy which, through a climate change regime, through a cap-and-tax provision, we could lose.

Well, these guys lost out and ladies. This one mine in southern Illinois that

had over 1,200 miners was shut down, and it was shut down to meet the requirements of the 90 amendments to the Clean Air Act. So I find it very, very difficult when my colleagues say there will be no effect. And we have been very successful, I think, in this debate to highlight the reality that people will lose jobs as we move to address the climate regime. These guys and these ladies lost their jobs. This is one mine.

I talked to an individual who was a business agent for the United Mine Workers who told me, at one time before these acts were passed there were about 16,000 bargain members of the United Mine Workers in southern Illinois. After this last legislation was passed, he was reorganized into a three-State region and he only was working for at that time 4,000 miners. So he went from 14,000 miners in southern Illinois to 4,000 United Mine Workers in a three-State region. There will be definitely be effects, and it is the blue-collar jobs, the working men and women who have mined our coals.

The historical importance of coal mining is part of the reason why many immigrant families found jobs when they moved here. I am a fourth-generation Lithuanian. My great grandfather came to this country and worked in the coal mine. That story is told over and over and over again and highlights the importance of this debate. So you go from this coal mine, this operation to nothing, you go to this job loss, and then you go to the last revenue for the county.

Now, this is just one story that can be told over and over again in just my State, central Illinois, from central Illinois all the way down to the southern tip, that story of miners losing their jobs. So that is why we come to this debate. And we come fervently to talk about the challenges of a cap-and-trade regime.

In this country, the portfolio of energy, again, in this chamber the electricity produced is by a coal-fired power plant just two blocks away from here. The electricity generated in this country is generated by 49 percent coal. So just imagine that you take coal out of the equation. Now you have current demand and you have less than half the amount of supply. And if you understand supply and demand, costs will then escalate. Who will that cost escalate to? Well, it escalates to everybody.

We hear about the President is making work pay tax credit, the \$300 to \$400 a year for an individual or the \$700 for a couple, that is for 95 percent of all Americans, as he promised. But what he hasn't been able to explain is how, as he passes this cap-and-tax on to the American public, he is going to tax everybody, 100 percent, because we will pay, the consumer will pay for the energy used across the board, because energy is used in everything that we touch, we eat, we consume in this country, and that cost will be passed on in higher costs.

So now let's just talk about the manufacturing sector. If you think that the manufacturing sector that is in this economic malaise right now, you think it is better served with low energy costs or high energy costs? I think the answer is clear: It is better served with low energy costs. If our manufacturing sector is completing against the likes of India and China in the manufacturing sector, do you think our manufacturing sector is better served with higher costs versus the competitors of India and China? Of course they are not. But this Congress and this President is planning to threaten the economic vitality of this country on this cap-and-tax regime and put thousands and thousands of people employed either in the mines or in the power plants or in the manufacturing sector out of work.

And I am just going to end with this story, and then I will yield to my colleague from Minnesota. People say, well, you know, America has got to lead. We have got to lead the folks from India and China. I was in a bipartisan meeting with senior Democrat leaders talking to a senior Chinese official; and I didn't ask the question, two of my democratic colleagues asked this question. The question was: Will China ever agree to an international cap-and-trade regime that is complied by the worldwide organization?

After answering both questions for about 15 minutes, the answer was the same, and this is a paraphrase. He said: You know, the United States and Western Europe built their middle class by cheap fossil fuel use, and now it is our turn. Now it is our turn.

So for anyone who thinks that they are going to comply just because we have now gutted ourselves and made ourselves less competitive and they are going to be goody two-shoes and going to join, they are wrong, and they are not understanding this other simple fact. I think in January, more automobiles were sold in China than in the United States. They are only starting their era of fossil fuel use. They are not going to stop their era of fossil fuel use. They are not going to comply with any international standards.

So our pain, our job loss, our inability to get out of this recession or this economic malaise is going to be held hostage to the fact that China is going to do nothing. We are going to tell our blue-collar workers out there, yeah, we are going to shut down this coal mine in the hopes that we can encourage China to join us? Are they kidding me?

So that is why we took to the floor. There is a lot more to talk about. I appreciate my colleague and friend from Minnesota for coming down, and I would like to yield time to her.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHIMKUS) for all the work that he has done, the tremendous work on energy. The energy fight that we all participated in last summer when we talked about how we needed to adopt an all-of-

the-above-energy standard so that we can increase America's energy supply, your leadership was exemplary on that effort.

We all remember how much fun that was last July 4, when we were all paying \$4 and more a gallon, thinking that we were on our way to paying \$6 a gallon, \$8 a gallon. We had no idea where it would lead, because what we are seeing was that the world was diminishing its supply, raising its prices. And here in the United States we adopted a policy that was to not produce more American energy, and that constricted and constrained the American public because they had less supply and they had to pay more money. This was not a scenario that the American people were very happy about, and we can see why.

Now, it is curious that under President Obama's spending plan, and that is what we talked about last week on the floor, that the President's budget spends too much, it taxes too much, it borrows too much. All of this radical historical level of spending is mandating massive tax increases. Mandating.

Just the stimulus plan alone, which we found doesn't do anything to stimulate, was over \$1 trillion in spending. Then we saw after that a \$410 billion budget bill which included almost 9,000 earmarks. And our President, who said he would not sign a bill with earmarks, signed a bill loaded with earmarks, and he did it behind a closed door where no cameras were present. And sandwiched in between all that massive spending was a fiscal responsibility summit. Now, that was a little humorous to me, but now here we are today talking about the budget.

Moving forward. This historic level of spending, \$3.7 trillion, where will the money come? Where will the money come from to fund all of this massive spending? I can guarantee to the American people, there is no vault back here in the Capitol filled with wrapped \$100 bills. There is no money here. There is no money tree out on the Capitol lawn that produces money every morning that we can shake and go gather that money up and spend on all these programs, socialized medicine, all the programs that the President is envisioning. So where will we go to get this money?

To fuel this radical historic level of spending, we are looking at the system that Mr. SHIMKUS has spoken of so well, and it is the cap-and-trade system, which we all know now is a subterfuge for an energy tax. This is a massive tax. And just as our President stood right here in this room several weeks ago and looked into the camera and said to the American people: 95 percent of the American people will pay no increase in taxation. And that absolutely is not true. We know it, because during the course of those remarks he said he wants to pass a cap-and-trade system.

What will cap-and-trade do? It will increase the price of almost every

product and service in the United States. Why? Because think of any commodity that somehow doesn't have energy attached to it. There isn't one.

I hail from great State of Minnesota, Minnesota's Sixth District. I will tell you one thing. When October hits in Minnesota, you turn on your furnace, and your furnace stays on until April. Our furnace is still on in Minnesota. It stays on. Energy is a fact of life. And under this cap-and-tax system, we are looking at a minimum 40 percent increase in the monthly energy bill, the monthly electric bill, let alone the increase in the gas tax when you go to the gas station, let alone when you go to the grocery store the increase in taxation. We know this.

As a matter of fact, we have some quotes from our President. We have a quote just a few days ago when the President said that he wants to pass this cap-and-tax system, but he said we may need to delay implementation until 2012. Why? Because our President said, in our current economic meltdown, we will not be able to afford a cap-and-tax system. Well, we know something about our economy. We engage in business cycles where we have good times and not so good times. What are we going to do, suspend this tax in not so good times? The President by his own words is admitting this will harm our economic future.

In fact, when President Obama was running for President, he said, and I quote, "What I said is that we would put a cap-and-trade system in place that is more, that is as aggressive if not more aggressive than anybody else's out there." So if somebody wants to build a coal powered plant, they can. It is just that they will bankrupt them, because they are going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that is being emitted.

And then he went on to say, "When I was asked earlier about the issue of coal, uh, you know, under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

Coal is the number one energy electricity producer in the United States, and we have coal in abundance in this country. Coal isn't evil. Oil isn't evil. Natural gas isn't evil. It has given us the energy to fuel the greatest economy that has ever been known in the history of man. And I fear that what we will be seeing is the demise of the American economy if we tie cement blocks onto the coal, oil, and natural gas industry. And I fear even the biofuel industry will be negatively impacted, the solar and wind industries I think also will be negatively impacted, because we need to have money in private hands to be able to create these new, wonderful alternative forms of energy that we need to have in the United States. We want to see more nuclear powered plants, zero emissions.

□ 1830

Now, if the President is truly worried about the emissions problem into our

atmosphere, why not embrace nuclear power? It produces zero emissions. We should be building nuclear power plants all across this country.

I don't want to take up all the time here, and I would be happy to dialogue with my colleague. Again, I want to thank Mr. SHIMKUS, because Mr. SHIMKUS understands, unfortunately all too well personally in his own district, what the cost has been when government rolls the dice with people's lives and thinks that they have come up with some grand new idea, but that grand new idea, as we have already seen economists forecast, is a loss of at minimum 1 million jobs. How could America accommodate right now 1 million more job losses because of this new tax? I yield back.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I think there is a group that will have jobs in this regime, and it is the Wall Street traders.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That's right.

Mr. SHIMKUS. The cap-and-tax regime, the cap-and-trade regime is predicated on the fact they are going to trade these carbon credits on a trading floor. So we are going to allow folks like Goldman Sachs and Bear Stearns—my colleague from Ohio just left the floor talking about the demise of the economy based upon shady actions. My colleagues on the other side who are on the floor are always throwing bombs at the New York Mercantile Exchange and these traders, the people who trade these instruments on the floor. This is a way for rich people to get richer, when you have a trading floor for carbon.

If my colleagues on the other side were intellectually honest, and I don't think they are being intellectually honest, they would say, let's outright cap, let's tax carbon emissions. Let's put a monetary amount on the carbon emission, and let's make it transparent so the public understands how much they are going to pay to try to mitigate carbon use. But they can't go that route because they can't be intellectually honest in this debate because they know the public will not accept the increase in energy cost and the job losses that are going to incur. So what do they do? They package this cap-and-trade trading floor scheme. And the same people they vilify, the Wall Street traders, are the people they are holding up saying, oh, no, but this system is going to work fine.

So, this carbon tax, I pulled this out, this is the President's "making work pay tax credit." I think we are being generous saying it is \$800. I think it is about \$700. The impact of a cap-and-tax provision as proposed in the budget is \$1,600 per individual. So the net loss to the individual, the household and the family is \$800. We are in the hole. We are not making money on this deal. We are behind.

Who is going to determine where this money goes to? The story I like to tell is that it is like the bank robbers. They rob the bank. They go to the hideout. And they put the loot on the table. And

where do the real fights begin? The fights begin as to how they are trying to split the proceeds. What is going on here in Washington now is my friends on the other side are trying to buy off votes to pass this regime promising this largess, which is a tax increase paid for by us, saying, "don't worry, you will get your share." It is just like the bank robbers. And that is why I'm so angry about it.

I yield to my colleague from Minnesota.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank you for yielding.

When we are looking at the money and where all of this massive amount of money will be spent, again, the placeholder in the President's budget is \$646 billion. But we are told that is maybe one-third of the true amount of revenue that will be generated. Now just think, that is between \$1.5 and \$2 trillion in new taxation. That is just one new taxation burden on the American people. And the President has already indicated that he may be using that money not to build new nuclear power plants, which would have zero emissions, but to redistribute the wealth, as he is wont to do, with paying for socialized medicine. So we are going to embrace a socialistic view of socialized medicine for the American people which will further be a burden on the American people.

I just wanted to go back on your previous comments on China. There is an article in today's Washington Times newspaper. Open up the inside of the paper. It said this regarding China, China made the comment that they will not be engaging in a cap-and-trade system. They won't be engaging in reducing their own emissions. Why? Because they said the United States are the consumers of products. Japan is the producers of products. They said, with a straight face, "as the producers of products, we aren't the ones who are truly generating the emissions, it is the consumers." Now they are ignoring the fact that they probably have one of the largest pools of consumers in the world.

They have no intention of paying this tax. And if you would give Al Gore and the people who are embracing the whole global warming narrative, if you would give them every aspect of what they believe, if you presume every premise they believe, and if the United States would implement all of their radical ideas, all of this cap and tax, let's say we did everything, gave it all to them, what would we produce in lowering emissions? By their own numbers, it shows that we would be reducing emissions by the year 2095—which is a long time from now—by less than 1 percent. That is a negligible amount. And we know that China is going to continue to grow as a manufacturer. India will continue to grow. Their emissions will overtake any savings the United States would possibly have.

So we need to recognize the truth of what cap and tax is. Cap and tax, pure

and simple, is a big government attempt to reach into Americans' pockets, pull more money out, bring it to Washington, DC, to empower the Federal Government so they can decide to do what they want to do with the American people's money.

I would yield back.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I appreciate that comment. That is really the irony of this whole debate. If all this money was going to go to mitigate carbon emissions or to help us adjust to this change, you may get some people, even though I still don't agree with it, who would say, okay, we know where it is going. But the fact that this money is going to go to grow government just shows you the problem they have with the real debate of what the real reason is that this cap-and-tax regime is being initiated.

I'm happy to be joined by my colleague from Tennessee, Congresswoman BLACKBURN. Thanks for coming down.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. It is so good to be with you. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue. You have just been a stalwart on this.

As we have looked at what it takes to address the energy needs of our Nation and how we should go about that, of course, we all know that one of the things we have to do is look at all of the above. And we began talking about this last year and spent some time talking about that we needed an all-of-the-above strategy to make certain that we addressed every component that was out there, every possibility that was going to be held. It is an honor to serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee with the gentleman from Illinois. It is also an honor to work with the Select Committee on Energy Independence. We know that this is a direction where we need to move towards energy independence. We know that we need to do this in a thoughtful way. We also know that we need to do this without raising taxes on the American people. Certainly that is possible.

As the gentleman and my colleague from Minnesota were both saying, the taxes that are out there are of tremendous concern to us. I appreciate the poster that the gentleman has where it shows what it is going to cost every family for this cap-and-tax scheme that the Democrat leadership is wanting to put in place. The MIT researchers feel that this tax is going to end up being \$3,100 per family. That is something that is going to far exceed even the \$1,600 that we see there.

It basically is a tax every time you turn on the light switch, every time you plug in the coffee pot and every time you turn on the computer. Every single time you go to use any energy source, you are going to be paying a tax. That means if you freeze your food, you're going to pay more. If you cook your food, you're going to pay more. Everything you use is going to end up costing you more, \$3,128 per

family per year. That is not my estimate. It is not Mr. SHIMKUS' estimate. That is the estimate from researchers at MIT as they look at this. And CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, also warns us of the burden that this is going to place on our middle income and our working families here in this country.

Many of my constituents are saying, "what in the world is a cap-and-trade, or what is a cap-and-tax?" And they are asking about how this would go about. And they can't believe that with the greenhouse gasses and the carbon emissions that you would have to go in and buy permits to use this. Indeed, our agricultural community is very concerned about this because what we are hearing from our friends across the aisle is that there would be a tax on every head of cattle. There would be a tax on every pig. What is that going to do? It is going to increase the cost of the food that you eat.

We know that it doesn't stop there, and the taxing doesn't stop there. The gentleman has talked some about coal and clean coal technologies. He has talked about nuclear power and the importance of having that in our strategy of how we solve this problem. What is the best way to take action? Of course, we know that it is going to be more difficult for our electric power generators to generate the electricity that we are going to need. We know that for anyone that works or deals with hydrocarbons, it is going to drive their costs up. Certainly our trucking and logistics companies are going to see incredible increases in taxes. All of that doesn't get equated and rolled into the \$3,128 per family that this would cost. These are all additional costs that would be seen in the increased cost of commodities that everyone is going to have to pay.

Now, one of the things that I have thought was, it's really quite curious, in all of this discussion, we all know that the best economic stimulus is a job. And you can't go anywhere right now without hearing about the economy. We all are worried about the recession and the length of the recession. We are worried about how we can energize this economy. We know the best economic stimulus is a job. And we know that the stimulus plans and the budget, all these ideas that have come from the Democrat side of the aisle, they tax too much, they borrow too much, and they spend too much. We all recognize this. But jobs growth is one of the things that we have focused on. Certainly with pushing the stimulus, we heard from the administration and the Democrat leadership, well, it was going to create 3 or 4 million new jobs. Well, as we have looked at this cap-and-tax proposal alone, just that portion of it, not looking at any other portion of it, we have seen that there are estimates that have come to us from CBO that the cap and tax could cost us as many as 3 or 4 million jobs. So putting this tax in place in the budget

would negate all the jobs that they think they would create by going through the stimulus and the money that they have put out there in the form of spending.

Also, I think that there has been much discussion about green jobs, and would this proposal create new green jobs? There is a good bit of study on this from Heritage Foundation and some others that say, no, such a proposal would actually reduce economic growth, reduce the gross domestic product and reduce employment opportunities. So for those of us who look at this as an issue of how we recover, what are the steps we take for this economy to recover, how do we reduce the tax burden, and then we look at the analysis not from you and me, but from outside entities, we see that this cap-and-tax scheme would be something that would be a jobs killer and a reduction in the gross domestic product of our Nation.

And I yield back to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I wonder if my colleague would stay for a minute and just go into a little dialogue as to in an economic decline, where we are fighting for every job, why would we put an additional burden on our manufacturing sector and the average American citizen in the aspect of raising taxes? Why? It just doesn't seem sensible when you need to get the jobs to get the economy moving again. What do you think is going on?

□ 1845

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Well, my constituents ask this regularly, and I have had an opportunity this week to meet with some of my constituents who are in the auto manufacturing industry and who work in logistics. Their question is always what in the world do people in Washington think they are doing? Are they that removed from what is happening in our communities? Do they not understand how jobs growth takes place?

You've got to have some incentives there for jobs growth to take place. Certainly, it seems there is a disconnect here.

My constituents know you cannot spend your way to recovery, and you cannot build recovery on a foundation of debt. They absolutely understand that. And they are very concerned that in the midst of this recession, which troubles us all, and as you look at the jobs loss that is taking place, the amount of jobs loss that has taken place the first quarter of this year, we know that to increase taxes, you can go back and look time and again at how things have taken place through our history. Certainly you can look at the late seventies. If you want a recent example, look at what transpired in 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980, I was a young mom at that point in time, 13 percent mortgage on homes, 20 percent inflation. Raising taxes in a recession does not work. We do know that lowering

the rate of taxation and spurring economic growth is good for Main Street, it is good for the American people, and it is good for our GDP and for our government and our economy.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague. I think the answer is they have got such a large majority on their side of the aisle that this is the time to pass it. It is a religion now. It doesn't have to be based on facts or the time that is at hand. We can impose an additional burden on business and manufacturing and electricity generation. We can impose an additional burden on the household, but that doesn't matter. But it is going to matter because even in the analysis of the Warner-Lieberman bill, we are talking about thousands of jobs. And that, by the Henry Waxman model, that is a moderate bill. An analysis was done on that bill, and it was summarily dismissed on the floor of the Senate. Why? Because it was a job killer, a job destroyer.

So on this side we are rushing, like we are rushing all legislation, to move a cap-and-tax bill by Memorial Day which will be even more egregious than the Warner-Lieberman bill which projected thousands of jobs lost. It is a religion that has to have service now versus the needs of our citizens.

You know, here is the tax increase. Here is the mine that was shut down. Here are the coal miners that lost their jobs. You were at the hearing. We had the Ohio Coal Association testify. When I talked about the environmental impact and the loss of these jobs, do you remember how many jobs Ohio lost? They lost 36,000 coal miner jobs in the State of Ohio. That is why some of my colleagues on the other side in the other body voted no.

Fossil fuel, here are some basic facts. When we came on the floor during the energy debate, we said all of the above. In our Commerce hearing, there was a proposal given to one of the panelists, if we allowed the company to shut down the coal-fired power plant and they built a nuclear power plant, would they get some of these credits because they are going from emitting some to emitting none. The answer was no.

We were looking around asking, Isn't that why you are proposing this? Don't you understand that we still need electricity, a 30 percent increase in the next 20 years. I have a teenage son. I have told the story numerous times. At home I go down to the basement, he is watching cable TV, he has his iPod in and he is surfing on the wireless Internet; three times the amount of electricity. That is what America is today.

The demand is going up and we are going to stop the production of electricity, and then people talk about renewables. Let me quote the President, and I use this one quite a bit. This is from his inaugural address. "We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories." No, we won't. There is no possible way.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. If the gentleman would yield, I wish you would read that quote one more time because as we talk about renewables and the renewable standards that are being placed out there that would be so harmful to our electric power generators, I think this is very important.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Before I read it again, the fact that in the renewable fuels debate, there is a debate upon calculation of the use of land which the EPA is going into. So if you are using bio-diesel, soy-diesel, they want to say if you produce soybeans, that encourages the Brazilians to go into the rainforest and so we want to mitigate that loss of the ability to sequester carbon in the rain forest, so we are going to say no to renewable fuels.

But here is from the inaugural address. "We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories." Now I am a big renewable fuels guy. I like ethanol and I like bio-diesel. I think the thing that really stood out for me is "run our factories."

The stats I use are this. I just ask for one steel mill. I take a steel mill that uses 545 million kilowatts a year. It would require roughly 138 wind turbines on roughly 12,443 acres of land for that total output. However, during peak load at the steel mill, it requires 100,000 kilowatts. For that you would need roughly 825 turbines on 33,000 acres of land to account for peak load. Now that is just one steel plant that may be close to me. Now add to that the second steel mill and add to that the refinery. What we are trying to do in this process is help educate the people. Right now 1.6 percent of our electricity is generated by renewables. So let's double it. That's a good goal. So 3.2 percent of the energy would then be by renewables. You are still going to have 50 percent coal, 20 percent nuclear, 20 percent hydro. It is still going to be part of the electricity generation mix, and a critical part if we want low-cost energy.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. If the gentleman will yield, I hope you will put those figures on the amount of space it would take for the wind turbines and other components to fuel one steel factory. I would imagine your research also shows that one steel factory probably has one power generation area, and it would be interesting to see the amount of acreage required for that. But I would encourage the gentleman to put this on his Website so that constituents of ours who are listening to this debate can pull those down because what we are hearing is as people have moved to growing corn and growing products to make renewable fuels and ethanol and the bio-diesels, but especially the ethanol, we are hearing of food shortages in some areas because corn is not being used for food. And certainly Haiti and some other countries that have food shortages, we have that documented evidence that shows that there is a need to move that production into the food arena and not

necessarily into the ethanol area because of the food shortages that are existing in this world today. And certainly also because of the subsidies that are required to make ethanol affordable and to get the amount of energy that is used in producing a gallon of ethanol, to get that down.

Certainly research and innovation will help us with the renewables, but we are not to the point where this can become the primary source of our electricity, or it is going to shut down our manufacturing, our productivity, the movement of our transportation fuels, the use of transportation fuels, the movement of products and commodities around our country, and the ability of people to be able to go from one area of the country to another in a reasonable amount of time.

It is something that is of tremendous concern to us because as I said earlier, the best economic stimulus is a job. And all of the outside research and the data we have been able to compile shows that this is not going to create jobs, it is going to cost us, and there is going to be a negative impact on our GDP.

I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague from Tennessee for joining me. Many States have power companies. I am fortunate to have some that aren't for profit. They are rural electric coops, like the Illinois Municipal Electrical Association. So their ratepayers are their constituents, so the elected officials are running this electricity generating and operation and distribution system for the people who vote for them.

They have made themselves pretty clear that this cap-and-tax regime will create a huge tax burden on the people who vote for them.

I have some stats that were sent to me. The Illinois Municipal Electric Association revenue requirements, without allowances in 2015 are approximately \$320 million, or \$60 per megawatt. The cost with allowances at \$20 per ton is \$510 million.

This is additional cost incurred to the utility that has not been planned for. When you have an additional cost and you are providing a service or a good, business, whether it is profitable, for profit or not for profit, will cost will pass that cost on to the consumer. That's where we make this claim that a cap-and-tax regime will raise taxes on the individual and it will cost jobs.

One of my colleagues talked about this article in the paper today, "China: Importers Need to Share Blame for Emissions," and it basically says that global warming would not require China to reduce emissions caused by goods manufactured there to meet demand elsewhere. The basic premise is that it is the people who are purchasing the goods who will pay for any burden increase.

Another story, "University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Study Could Realign Climate Change Theory," and I want to quote one paragraph.

"In climate, when this happens, the climate state changes. You go from a cooling regime to a warming regime or a warming regime to a cooling regime. This way we were able to explain all of the fluctuations in the global temperature trend in the past century," Tsonis said. "The research team that sound the warming trend of the past 30 years has stopped and in fact global temperatures have leveled off since 2001." The most recent climate shift probably occurred at about the year 2000."

That is why the climate-change activists and those who promote the carbon tax regime, that is why they are so befuddled and they want to move this quickly because what has happened to the temperatures over the last 7 years? Has it gone up? No, it hasn't. The average temperature has gone down, and since it has gone down, it has got them very frustrated on how they are going to sell this cap-and-tax regime to the public.

□ 1900

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD these two articles for submission with this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, in the fall of last year, we really made a concerted effort to talk about the energy needs of this country, and we brought to the floor the basic debate that we wanted a more-of-the-above strategy. We wanted to incentivize coal, we wanted to incentivize nuclear power, we wanted to incentivize wind and solar, renewables, and we wanted them to compete for the public's demand based upon cost so that you would create jobs.

I brought this chart to the floor numerous times over the last Congress to point out the fallacy of not having an all-of-the-above strategy. And why I bring this up now is that this cap-and-tax regime will not help this all-of-the-above strategy, will not broaden the portfolio of fuels that we are able to use and compete for. It will restrict them to a point where we are going to price ourselves out of the ability to use fuels.

This chart is pretty clear; it just shows jobs being created in a—I wish it was a coal mine that is about 3,000 feet under the ground in southern Illinois, but it is an open mine probably in the Wyoming basin in Montana or Wyoming. And you see people working, recovering the coal. Recoverable coal.

Then you take that mine and you move it to a coal-to-liquid refinery. The jobs to build this refinery would be good-paying, building trade jobs. We have an expansion of an oil refinery in my district. Right now, in this economic decline, 1,000 jobs are being created to expand this refinery. That's the type of jobs you could have by building a coal-to-liquid refinery.

Then, wherever this refinery is located, you then develop a pipeline. I saw a natural gas pipeline being laid from my district last fall. It takes a lot of skilled labor, a lot of time, and a lot of patience to move a pipeline. And that is good-paying American jobs.

Then, in this case, the coal-to-liquid debate is a national security issue. We have in the United States an Air Force base where coal-to-liquid has been tested to be used in Air Force planes. This is what the Department of Defense wants for national security purposes to not be held captive to imported crude oil. This proposal, and proposals like this, are dead on arrival here in Washington. Why are they dead on arrival? They are dead on arrival because of this carbon tax provision, this carbon tax regime.

Again, I want to be clear; if my colleagues on the other side want to be intellectually honest, let's just tax it, know how much we're going to receive, and watch the pure transparency of the money going from the payees to the government, who is going to pay up. It is not the best solution, but it is better than setting up a trading floor, like so many that have been demagogued on this floor, of the rich getting richer by working the trading floor markets—the Bear Stearns of the world, the Goldman Sachs of the world, the NYMEXs of the world. And hopefully this will not get passed and signed into law, but I know that if it will, my friends will be down here arguing and complaining about the people who are manipulating that market. And that manipulation is going to cause costs to increase. And there is going to be a lot of wealthy people making a lot of money on a carbon tax regime, and it is going to cost many thousands of people their jobs.

In a slow economy, when you are trying to encourage job creation, job development, the best way to be competitive is to have low-cost energy. When only 1.6 percent of your electricity in this country is generated by renewables, you have to understand that you are not going to get to 90 percent of your electricity being generated by renewables. If we are good, we may get to 3.2. If we are extremely good, we may get to five.

So that begs the question of where the other electricity is being generated. If we want low-cost power, it has to be with the use of recoverable coal in our Midwest States and our northwestern mountainous States that have, arguably—this country has, arguably, 240 years of recoverable coal. That is coal that we can recover and use for practice. Now, we have a lot more, but that is the amount that we know that we can recover and still make money on it because their coal seams are big enough, you can engineer it and the like.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity. I have been talking about energy for many years now on the floor. In the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have had numerous hearings on climate change and how to address this.

You will hear the terminology of cap-and-trade. Remember that the trading floor, which people will buy credits, those purchases of credits will raise the costs of people who use energy—whether they are truck drivers, whether they

are people who manufacture goods and services and use a lot of electricity, you name it, you buy it, there is going to be an added cost to that good or that service based upon climate change. That money will then go to the table to be split up by legislation that we pass here.

I would just hope that, first of all, we don't do that; but if we do, that that money goes to mitigate the loss of jobs or the increased cost to the individual consumer, not to grow government, not to create new policies. That money has to go to transform this Nation. I fear it will not. I fear it will not do the job.

My friend from Iowa is here. I only have a couple minutes. If he would like to join me, I would be happy to hear any comments he wants to add.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Illinois. I appreciate the recognition.

I wanted to come down here and thank JOHN SHIMKUS for leading on energy all summer long with an intense effort, and for standing up for the fuel that means so much to the parts of this country, this massive supply of coal that we have, as a big piece of the entire picture of energy that we need to do.

What happens if they put this cap-and-tax on us? We are going to need more and more articulate voices to defend our values and to defend our economy. And the very idea that we can put a tax on energy is a tax on every consumer, it is a tax on our economy, it shrinks the American economy, and it lets the rest of the world out-compete us. And I just appreciate a minute to say so. I thank you. And congratulations to the gentleman from Illinois. I yield back.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague. And I think even my colleagues on the other side will understand the kind of sincerity I bring to this debate. Because in 1992, I was at a rally to save these coal miner jobs. It was at the Christian County Fairgrounds. This mine was closed because of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. They shipped in western coal to meet the standards, and 1,200 miners lost their job.

There was a rally that brought in a lot of politicians who said they were there to fight to save these jobs. One of them whom was there voted for the Clean Air Act that destroyed these jobs. I think that's a little hypocritical. If you pass legislation that is going to destroy these jobs, don't come crying and saying, shame on that company for closing that mine down.

My job, through this whole cap-and-tax debate, is to make sure that, when all is said and done, this body, my constituents, will know that I did everything possible to save the remaining coal mining jobs in southern Illinois and I did everything possible to make sure that coal-fired electricity generation is still part of our portfolio because it is a low-cost fuel, and it will help us in our competitive nature in this country.

And so I want to walk away from this debate—hopefully I'll win, but I want to walk away from this debate saying, it is for these folks that I came down to fight. I know my colleagues on the other side, those who even disagree with the basic premise I think will appreciate the emotion and the fervor that I am going to bring to this.

[From the Indianapolis Star, Mar. 16, 2009]

CHINA: IMPORTERS NEED TO SHARE BLAME FOR EMISSIONS

(By Dina Cappiello)

WASHINGTON (AP).— Countries buying Chinese goods should be held responsible for the heat-trapping gases released during manufacturing in China, one of its top officials said Monday.

The argument could place an even greater burden on the U.S. for reducing pollution blamed for global warming.

Li Gao, China's chief climate negotiator, said that any fair international agreement to curb the gases blamed for global warming would not require China to reduce emissions caused by goods manufactured there to meet demand elsewhere.

China has surpassed the U.S. as the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. But 15 to 25 percent of its emissions are generated by manufacturing goods for export, Li said.

"As one of the developing countries, we are at the low end of the production line for the global economy. We produce products and these products are consumed by other countries. . . . This share of emissions should be taken by the consumers, but not the producers," Li said during a briefing at the Capitol's visitor center.

Li directs the climate changes department at the National Development and Reform Commission and was in Washington, along with negotiators from other countries, to meet with Obama administration officials. President Barack Obama has indicated a willingness to enter into a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gases.

But China's stance could be one of the stumbling blocks facing the U.S., China's largest trading partner, when negotiations to broker a new international treaty begin in Copenhagen in December. Li said China was not alone in thinking that emissions generated by the production of exports should be dealt with by importing countries.

Li also criticized proposals by the U.S. to place carbon tariffs on goods imported from countries that do not limit the gases blamed for global warming. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are considering it as they draft legislation to control global warming pollution to ensure that U.S. goods can compete with cheaper imports from countries without regulation.

"If developed countries set a barrier in the name of climate change for trade, I think it is a disaster," Li said.

Neither China nor the U.S. ratified the last agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

China has long insisted that developed nations bear the main responsibility for cutting emissions. As president, George W. Bush refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol because he said developing nations like India and China should not be exempt.

Negotiators from other governments at the Monday briefing, including the European Union and Japan, said that they would not support China's proposal to unload a portion of its greenhouse gas emissions on importers.

"I think the issue here is we take full responsibility and we . . . regulate all the emissions that come from our territory," said Artur Runge-Metzger, who heads the climate change strategy and international ne-

gotiations unit at the European Commission. Runge-Metzger said that if China's approach were adopted, it would require allowing other countries to have jurisdiction and legislative powers to control emissions outside their borders.

Li was joined by Vice Chairman Xie Zhenhua of the National Development and Reform Commission in his visit to Washington.

Xie met with U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern at the State Department on Monday. The talks in Copenhagen were among the topics discussed, said State Department spokesman Robert Wood.

"There's a willingness, particularly on the Chinese side, to really engage on the subject of climate change, and we welcome that," Wood said.

UW—MILWAUKEE STUDY COULD REALIGN CLIMATE CHANGE THEORY—SCIENTISTS CLAIM EARTH IS UNDERGOING NATURAL CLIMATE SHIFT

MILWAUKEE.—The bitter cold and record snowfalls from two wicked winters are causing people to ask if the global climate is truly changing.

The climate is known to be variable and, in recent years, more scientific thought and research has been focused on the global temperature and how humanity might be influencing it.

However, a new study by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee could turn the climate change world upside down.

Scientists at the university used a math application known as synchronized chaos and applied it to climate data taken over the past 100 years.

"Imagine that you have four synchronized swimmers and they are not holding hands and they do their program and everything is fine; now, if they begin to hold hands and hold hands tightly, most likely a slight error will destroy the synchronization. Well, we applied the same analogy to climate," researcher Dr. Anastasios Tsonis said.

Scientists said that the air and ocean systems of the earth are now showing signs of synchronizing with each other.

Eventually, the systems begin to couple and the synchronous state is destroyed, leading to a climate shift.

"In climate, when this happens, the climate state changes. You go from a cooling regime to a warming regime or a warming regime to a cooling regime. This way we were able to explain all the fluctuations in the global temperature trend in the past century," Tsonis said. "The research team has found the warming trend of the past 30 years has stopped and in fact global temperatures have leveled off since 2001."

The most recent climate shift probably occurred at about the year 2000.

Now the question is how has warming slowed and how much influence does human activity have?

"But if we don't understand what is natural, I don't think we can say much about what the humans are doing. So our interest is to understand—first the natural variability of climate—and then take it from there. So we were very excited when we realized a lot of changes in the past century from warmer to cooler and then back to warmer were all natural," Tsonis said.

Tsonis said he thinks the current trend of steady or even cooling earth temps may last a couple of decades or until the next climate shift occurs.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I enjoyed listening to my colleague from Illinois. In fact, this is the second time today I have heard him speak on the floor and I have seen him point to the picture of the coal miners and talk about the problems of the Clean Air Act. And I hope every American was listening to that because that is exactly what we are talking about today.

We had, for decades, people burning dirty coal, turning rivers and lakes in other parts of the country, acid rain, destroying forests, posing problems to people's health. And what this Congress did, in a bipartisan effort, was create a mechanism to make it so that it was no longer free to pollute the air with dirty coal that created acid rain and destroyed lakes and forests.

My friend didn't want to talk about the problems to health, didn't want to talk about the issues that relate to the damage to the environment, or the fact that we were able to create the most effective market system in history that was able to solve a real problem to the environment, to health. Life went on. Yes, there were some changes in terms of the economy. There were some people who didn't—when it became too expensive for them to foul the air, spoil our lakes, and destroy our forests, then they shifted. Well, I would suggest, Madam Speaker, that any independent observer would suggest that that was a solid program and a good tradeoff.

I don't hear my friend from Illinois coming to the floor and saying, repeal the Clean Air Act so we can have a few more miners at work creating dirty coal that is going to ruin our environment and destroy health. That issue is over.

We are facing a very real challenge today about what we are going to do to protect the future of the planet. I will get into, in a moment, talking about some of the discussion that we have heard from our friends on the other side of the aisle, but one of the things that is very, very important to note is that they have no answer in terms of what we do to the slow cooking of the planet. They ignore the costs that are being incurred right this minute. Temperatures in Alaska have already gone up several degrees, permafrost is no longer permanent, roads are buckling, coastal villages washed away. These are costs and consequences that we are already seeing as the ocean levels slowly, imperceptibly to most of us, but very clear to scientists when they see the fabled Inland Passage in the Arctic Ocean free of ice, when we watch the habitat shrink for arctic animals, when we watch diseases shifting from vector control—West Nile disease, for instance, popping up in places where it shouldn't be, where invasive species are

infesting our forests. These are costs and consequences that we are seeing now that my friends on the other side of the aisle refuse to come to grips with.

But we are not going to be able to have the same head-in-the-sand attitude that we saw from the Bush administration alone—of all the major governments in the world, alone—denying the imperative of global warming, withdrawing from opportunities to be collaborative on a national scale.

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What we had to have in the last 8 years, where the other side of the aisle simply accepted that sort of behavior from their administration and, in fact, aided and abetted and supported it, we had over 900 cities across the country come forward and say wait a minute, we're not going to wait for the Bush administration and the Federal Government. We are going to take it upon ourselves to deal with climate change and global warming and move to change our local economy, to prepare it for the future, and to help slow this damage to the environment by carbon pollution.

I come from a community in Portland, Oregon, where we have actually reduced greenhouse gas emissions for 4 years in a row. We're very close to being Kyoto compliant. It gave us an opportunity, frankly, to create new green jobs. We were competing with Houston and Denver for being the wind energy capital of the United States because we've been serious about energy conservation, transportation choices, land use, all of the things that are going to be part of a comprehensive solution to the threat of these changes to the climate and the carbon pollution. We've actually been able to make some progress and be positioned to deal with a carbon-constrained economy.

We need, Madam Speaker, for people to reflect on what is happening now. Just like my friend from Illinois didn't talk about the cost of acid rain. It didn't matter to him. He was concerned about a few miners in his district and didn't care about the damage to forests and human health and lakes and fishing. But we are already seeing the damage that is occurring as a result of climate change.

Speaking of acid rain, one of the things we are seeing is that the ocean is slowly becoming more and more acidic. This increased acidic content of the ocean is having a consequence in terms of damaging coral reefs. I mean these are the rain forests of the ocean. This is where billions and billions of different animals and plants reside up the food chain throughout the ecological system of the ocean that makes a difference in terms of how people on this planet are going to be fed. We are watching what has happened. There may be consequences in terms of the Earth's climate because of the change in the ocean's current and acidic level.

We are seeing across the country increases in extreme weather events, ex-

actly what the scientists told us would happen. Yes, the world's atmosphere is increasing in temperature. Yes, we're seeing an increase in the sea level that could be 2 to 6 feet by the end of the next century. But we are already seeing vast stretches of this country in the flame zone being subjected to increased forest fires, to drought. In your areas in the Southeast, you have seen drought where it has not been a problem for years. In the Southwest, Lake Mead that supplies the city of Las Vegas is going down, causing massive disruption. We are watching changes that are taking place in terms of snowpack. My good friend and colleague from the Pacific Northwest, Mr. INSLEE, and I depend on snowpack for water supply and energy production. This makes a great deal of difference.

Madam Speaker, one of the concerns I have as I am listening to our friends on the other side of the aisle make things up about what is going to happen with a proposal to reduce carbon pollution and put a price on it, they assume somehow that this is going to result in money disappearing, that somehow this is just a tax that goes into the great government maw and there is nothing that comes out the other end. Well, as a practical matter, and I'm confident that in the course of this hour as I work with my friend Mr. INSLEE, who I see poised here in the front of the Chamber and I am hoping that he's willing to enter into this conversation with me because he knows a great deal about it, we hope that we will be able to encourage, if not our Republican friends, at least the American people to look at the President's budget. Look at what he has proposed to begin a comprehensive approach to transform our energy supply and slow global warming.

Yes, he recommends putting a price on carbon pollution, but he also recommends that this money would be generated by having the carbon polluters pay for the privilege, just like we did with acid rain so successfully that my friend from Illinois now is against. There are opportunities to be able to put this back into place because the program, and I'm just quoting from the President's budget, would be implemented through a cap and trade, like we did with acid rain, that will ensure that the biggest polluters don't enjoy a windfall. The program will fund vital investments in a clean energy future, which I think my friend Mr. INSLEE may have some thoughts about, \$150 billion over the course of the next 10 years. The balance of the auction revenues are to be returned to the people, especially vulnerable families, communities, and business, to help the transition to the clean energy economy.

You know, there's a great NRDC blog that talks about Newt Gingrich's assertion that climate change will result in a \$1,300 tax per household. And they point out it's simply voodoo economics.

First of all, he ignores the value of the carbon market. It just disappears.

He assumes that the money doesn't get returned to the taxpayers. Well, based on what New Gingrich and the Republicans did with their bridges to nowhere, with their profligate spending in Iraq, with their driving up the budget deficits and giving benefits to a few taxpayers at the expense of the many, I can understand the skepticism. He assumes that it won't be invested in energy conservation, saving us money. He assumes that communities aren't being helped. He assumes that it's not going to address regional differences in the cost of cutting global warming. He just assumes that somehow it's locked up someplace in a vault. Well, that's wrong. The President has outlined an approach that captures the value and makes America stronger, more energy reliant, and allows families the tools to reduce their escalating energy costs.

And I will conclude on this point and then yield to my colleague from Washington State if he's interested in joining in. But I want to say that we are facing now the consequences of an energy policy that was designed looking in a rear-view mirror for failed fossil fuels, lack of energy conservation, and not dealing with the technologies of the future. And as a result, energy bills are going up. As a result, we saw \$4.11 a gallon gasoline last summer. We saw \$700 billion leave this country to petroleum potentates when there's a different vision of the President and of those of us who want to do something not just about global warming but to retool and revitalize our green economy.

And with that I would like to yield to my colleague Mr. INSLEE, who's an author in this arena, a noted spokesperson who has been working for years in Congress before, as they say, it was fashionable, to talk about how our economy and our environment could look different.

Congressman INSLEE, welcome.

Mr. INSLEE. I appreciate, Mr. BLUMENAUER, coming forth to talk about this issue because we're about to really make a pretty big decision here, whether we're going to just continue doing nothing about our energy problems, this sort of inaction model. Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle basically are saying everything is hunky-dory and we should do nothing about the energy challenges we have. Or should we take a real step forward to try to move to transform our economy, to build millions of green collar jobs, to wean ourselves off of Middle Eastern oil and at the same time reduce the amount of global warming that is occurring?

We think we need to move. We think we need action. We don't think the current state of the economy is good enough for America. We think America is better than this for ways I'd like to talk about a little bit. And I don't think it's good enough to adopt this sort of approach some of my colleagues earlier were talking about to just say it's okay to be addicted to Middle East-

ern oil, it's okay to allow the jobs of building electric cars to go to China.

It's not okay to let the jobs building wind turbines to go to Denmark. It's not okay to let the job of building solar cells go to China. We don't think that's okay. We want an American response to build those products here, to build those green collar jobs here.

Now, I meet with a lot of groups about energy. I was very heartened last weekend. I went to the Boston area to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the MIT Conference on Energy, and there's a group up at MIT of students, mostly post-graduate science and engineering students, and they have an energy club, and once a year they have a meeting about energy. So I went up there to address their group. There were about 150, 200 students, and about 300 entrepreneurs and business people. And I was so excited to listen to what they saw as a vision for this country.

And for those who think we can just stay in the status quo, I wish they could meet these MIT students. These folks were telling me about the jobs we can create in the solar industry with concentrated solar energy power, like the Ausra Company that just built the first manufacturing plant for concentrated solar cell energy in Nevada. Just 2 months ago they opened up this plant. And these MIT students are chomping at the bit to start working in that technology. We were talking about the AltaRock Company, a company that's now exploring engineered geothermal up in the State of Washington. These MIT students just can't wait to start going out and start businesses around technology like that. We talked about the Sapphire Energy Company, a company that now is building production facilities to use algae to make biofuels. We talked about the A123 Company in Boston, which makes lithium-ion batteries so we can power our plug-in electric hybrid cars.

And what these MIT students told me is, Mr. Congressman, you build a structure to drive investment into these new technologies, and we will build the companies of the future and the jobs of the future to deliver a clean energy transformed economy for the United States.

And for anybody who is a pessimist about our ability to wean ourselves off of fossil fuel and wean ourselves off of Saudi Arabian oil, you ought to go out and meet these MIT students.

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But the businessmen there told us something, and this is the important point, I think. What the business people, these were venture capitalists, these were CEOs of major corporations, what they told us is that future will not come to pass, the green-collar jobs we are talking about, unless we adopt some rules of the road for a market-based economy that will not give such an advantage to fossil fuels but, in fact, will level the playing field.

And what they told me is that basically there is a couple of things we can do. One thing we can do is to essentially level the playing field between these new technologies and some of the older companies that have been subsidized for so long, like the oil and gas industry.

Now, basically, we can do that through a system that will drive investment towards these new jobs of the future. And, by the way, those new jobs of the future may include what we call sequestered coal. Some of my colleagues were here earlier talking a lot about coal. The folks up at MIT were telling me that we may be able to find a technology to sequester carbon dioxide when you gasify coal. It may be a possibility.

So we need some research dollars to make that come to pass. Well, we have a way of doing that, and President Obama has proposed a way of generating funds that can be used to essentially develop that technology, and he has proposed what's called a cap-and-trade or a cap-and-invest system which is, basically, it's pretty simple. We would establish a cap, a limit on the amount of pollution that polluting industries are allowed to put into the air.

We have done this to great success in acid rain, sulfur dioxide, which is the pollution that causes acid rain. Congress several years ago passed a cap, a limit on the amount of that acid rain pollution that we put into the atmosphere.

Now, President Obama has proposed doing the same for the pollutant that causes global warming, principally carbon dioxide. And then we would simply have the polluting industries buy, at auction, the permits to do that, and use the market system to establish a price for that.

Now, here's the important part about this approach. Number 1, it does, it takes action. It recognizes that the status quo is not good enough. And we are here tonight to say that America needs a better energy policy than the one we have right now. So, number one, it takes action.

Number two, when you do this, what the business people have told me all across this country, when you do this, it starts to drive investment into these new technologies that can create the green-collar jobs that we need so much in wind power, in solar power, in enhanced geothermal power, in electric cars and potentially in sequestered coal to use coal in that way. But to do that you have to put a price on carbon dioxide, and you have to limit the amount of this pollution that's going into the atmosphere. So we are here to say that we are capable of building a new transformed economy.

I want to make one other comment if I can, people have said that when you make an investment like this it costs some money. Well, any investment costs some money, when you buy a house, it costs some money. When you build an electric car, it costs you some

money. But the people who want us to just stay in the status quo don't understand that the door of inaction is going to cost us a heck of a lot more money.

Go ask the people up in Alaska whose homes tonight are washing into the Arctic Ocean because the permafrost is melting, these are Americans. There is a town in America that is going to have to be moved at the cost of about \$30 million because it's basically melting into the Arctic Ocean because the tundra is melting underneath them. That's costing Americans a lot of money tonight. We need to figure that into the proposition.

Go ask the farmers in California, who are losing their farms tonight because we have this horrendous drought, an unprecedented drought in the western United States, who are losing their farms and their livelihoods. Ask them if there is a cost associated with global warming.

Ask the folks who are losing salmon, the salmon fishermen on the west coast—I am from Washington, Mr. BLUMENAUER is from Oregon—ask them the cost of inaction of losing their livelihood because we lost salmon runs because there wasn't enough water in the rivers last year to have a salmon harvest.

Americans are getting costs tonight that we cannot ignore, and we know those costs are going to be greater than any investments that we make. By the way, those investments that we make under our plan, here is what is going to happen, and this is President Obama's plan. Polluting industries are going to do what they should do, which is to have to pay some cost to put pollution into the atmosphere.

You know, when you and I go to the dump, we pay \$25 to dump our junk in the garbage dump. We can't just dump it for free. And under our plan polluting industries will pay some cost associated with putting pollution into the atmosphere, as determined by the market. They will bid against each other, and the highest bidder will get the permit.

So they will get to finally recognize the atmosphere as not a personal dumping ground for a coal-fired plant but, in fact, something we share that has a market value. So they will put money into the pot to buy those permits.

That money will then go back to the American people in a variety of ways. First it will go back to the American people in making an investment for America in common to build these new industries to do the research and development it takes so these jobs will be here, not China. It will go back to the American people as an investment to build research facilities to build lithium ion batteries here in this country rather than China and Korea, that's number 1.

Number two, it will go back to the American people in a substantial tax cut, probably the largest tax cut America has seen for the middle class, to

make permanent some of these tax cuts. It's going to go right back to the American people.

Third, it will go back in a way, and there are several ways we can do this, to help some of the communities that might be disadvantaged, potentially, by job loss and energy-intensive industries around steel mills and the like. The point is it will go back to the American people, and it go in a way that will reduce the cost for Americans, not increase it.

Now, if you think I am just making this stuff up, people can go check an authoritative view, an assessment of the cost of this, and it basically concluded as this has net positive costs. I mean, it doesn't have costs relative to what's going to happen to our economy if we do not act, and that's from an assessment done on the GNP that predicted we would have a 5 percent reduction.

Lloyd Stern, a very well respected economist from England, he and his team did this assessment. They concluded we will have net negative costs relative to this inaction.

So we are here to say we have a vision based on confidence that Americans still have the right stuff, that people who put a man on the Moon still have the right stuff. And if we go out and make these investments, we are going to put Americans to work building these green-collar jobs right in this country. If we don't, we are going to lose jobs.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I very much appreciate the perspective you bring to this discussion, and I very much appreciate you referencing the Stern report. This is an opportunity, we both serve on the Speaker's Select Committee for Energy Independence and Global Warming, having a chance to deal with the British Parliament hearing and Sir Nicholas Stern lay out the result of his research.

And by a 5-1 margin, the cost, the risks, the costs that we are looking at were far greater than any cost of implementation, and as you have outlined in great detail, there are many opportunities, if we do this right, to revitalize our economy, to reduce costs right now to American families.

Just four categories of climate damage alone, hurricanes, higher energy bills, property lost to rising sea level and water-supply impacts are predicted to cost the average family \$2,000 a year by 2025; by 2050, that increases another 50 percent to \$3,000 a year; and by the end of the next century, \$11,000 per family, just for those elements.

Now, those estimates ignore, because they are a little hard to quantify, but as you pointed out, they are real. The added cost of drought, flood, wildfires, the mud slides that follow, agricultural damage and the value of lost life. We saw thousands of people lose their lives a few years ago in Europe, in France. We saw hundreds of people die in the Midwest.

These are real problems that our friends on the other side have no an-

swers for. They are, instead, paying—I am stunned that they would come to the floor and argue against.

Mr. INSLEE. I just had a thought, as you were talking. I have seen this movie before of those who didn't want to take action, and I am trying to remember where I saw it before and I just flashed on where it was. It was in Katrina, because if you think about some of my colleagues who don't want to take action to protect against natural disaster, it's kind of like the response of the administration to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans where they did not make a response to a natural disaster.

And we are now experiencing a natural disaster of enormous implications and costs. What I think this is like is if we had come forward the day before Katrina with meteorological evidence that this hurricane is coming, and we went to President Bush and we said, if we make this investment, we can build these levees real fast and protect this city from this known damage that's coming our way.

You know what our friends across the aisle would have said? Costs too much money. It's just another socialist experiment. And that's pretty much what the administration's attitude was in Katrina even when that was happening.

Now, we have a slow-motion disaster which is a lot worse than Katrina. But their philosophy is the same, which is to not spend a dollar for investment against a known risk. And so I just want to suggest it's a similar situation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well, I appreciate your clarification and amplification. It is stunning to hear my friend on the other side of the aisle think that the Clean Air Act failed, and because a few people admittedly lost their jobs mining dirty coal, that somehow it wasn't worth stopping the damage to lakes and forests and human health. We put a price on a pollutant, as you pointed out, sulfur dioxide.

People paid and pretty soon we had reversed the damage and we were cleaning it up. There are costs now that the American public is paying. There are greater, future costs that we can avoid, an opportunity to strengthen America and strengthen our economy.

I see we have been joined by our colleague from Colorado, Congressman POLIS, if you would wish to enter into this dialogue, I know you have been an avid supporter of a strong environment. You come from a community that cares deeply about this, and we would welcome your thoughts and observations if you would care to join us.

Mr. POLIS. Here in Congress, and as a new Member going through the budget process and looking at a lot of these issues for the first time, I am really struck by the fact that as we discuss numbers on the cost side, we are not accounting for the cost of not taking action which, in many cases, particularly with regard to reducing our carbon emissions, are far greater than a

lot of the costs that we are looking at with regard to the actions we need to take.

So a more comprehensive and an integral approach to kind of how we look at costs is absolutely critical here.

You mentioned as well, the Clean Air and Clean Water Act. There are ways, economic ways to put a value, a beyond the moral value of preserving our rivers and preserving our trees. There is a very legitimate moral value, whether you derived that from a faith-based position or another position, there are actual economic costs of our value of our natural heritage and our natural assets. When minerals or oil and gas are extracted, they are extracted once, they are gone.

We are losing a national asset. It's not a renewable energy source. And these are not looked at in terms of coming from the financial calculations with regard to the programs that we are proposing.

So I think it would be some benefit in trying to apply some more integral accounting and economic modeling and budgetary techniques to looking at the real cost of doing nothing and, in fact, the real savings from taking action. When you are taking action to preserve our rivers and streams and forest, for instance, you might look at the direct economic cost of that to businesses, but you also have to look at the natural capital that is preserved, that is a true form of capital wealth for our great country that deserves every bit as much consideration as the direct dollars and cents associated with implementation of these policies.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I very much appreciate your observations. We have been joined by my colleague from New York, Congressman TONKO from Albany who, in a prior life, as I recall, was CEO of the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority. You have got some practical applications, both in your private sector experience and your work for years in the New York State Assembly. We will welcome thoughts and observations that you would have to add to the conversation.

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Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Congressman. I think it's absolutely important that we move forward with progressive policy in the energy area. I chaired the Energy Committee in the New York State Assembly for 15 years. And, you're right, went on to serve as president and CEO at NYSERDA, where we focused on renewables, efficiency, research and development. The investment that we saw was tremendously powerful to the economy and where we worked on several projects that really promoted efficiency and conservation measures.

What I think is important to note here is that this President, this administration, has shared a vision with a laser-sharp focus and shared with a very direct boldness about the opportunity we have now as a Nation.

We have witnessed the last several years of conflicts in the Middle East, and so many believe that was over the commodity of oil. We know that that fossil-based dependency pollutes the environment and that we have an opportunity here to not only address our future and job creation, but our environment and greening up the outcomes, leaving not only this generation, but certainly those to follow much cleaner air to breathe and a stronger sense of environment-friendly policy.

Where I think the significance comes here is that we can grow our energy independence. We can strengthen that outcome by reducing what is a glutinous dependency on fossil-based fuels, oftentimes imported and from some of the most troubled spots in the world that have unstable governments. And it's why we were drawn into a conflict, I think, because of our dependency on that area for our energy commodities.

While we can reduce that dependence on fossil-based fuels, we can strengthen our energy security, which is a good thing. It's a great bit of policy initiative that we should have pull us along this roadway of progressive politics as it relates to energy generation and energy usage.

We also, when we reduce that dependency and grow the energy security, we grow and strengthen our national security, which is an important factor in the international concepts. We are able to move forward in a way that I think promotes a much more stable national security outcome for our Nation and generations, again, to follow.

So, as we do this, I believe the investments we can make now by the policies that will build an investment in renewables, in shelf-ready opportunities to grow energy efficient outcomes, to retrofit our businesses, to retrofit our farms. We did projects through NYSEERDA that spoke favorably, overwhelmingly favorably, to dairy farmers, who are dealing with perishable products, who are dealing with perishable produce, that were dealing with a very important bit of nature. They couldn't avoid at times the peak periods where they could perhaps avoid priciest power. They needed to have some sort of addressing of those situations.

What we were able to do is retrofit those dairy farms and allow for them to reduce their energy costs, which allows for them to feed this Nation in a more effective way.

So, also, as we create these opportunities through investment and research and development, we are growing significant jobs, tremendous jobs that will call upon the engineer out there, the inventor, the innovator, and we know that there's a great career ladder we can build there.

We are investing in the trades because the trading out and the retrofit of these systems, they will maintain, operate, and repair these situations so

that, again, job creation galore here that can really allow us to breathe freer in terms of creating the energy that we need and how we use that energy.

What I also would make mention of is that R&D, research and development, should be seen as economic development. I believe that by investing in that sort of future, by creating the funds that will allow for a blueprint for our energy future, that allows us to take that intellectual capacity as a Nation, to take our brain power as Americans, and put it to work so that we can deploy these success stories into the commercial sector, where we can do cutting edge, where we already have ready opportunities, they need to be inserted into the outcomes here in the States, and we also can move forward with many, many new opportunities in this energy-driven, innovative economy that is so boldly expressed by this President and certainly by Speaker PELOSI and the leadership of this House.

So I see a great opportunity here for this Nation to respond favorably to the energy needs of this country, to do it much more independent of reliance on some of the most troubled spots in the world, and doing it in a way that creates significant career ladders for people across the strata of job opportunities, from trades on up to those who hold bachelor's and master's and doctorate degrees that can assist this Nation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. We deeply appreciate your adding a voice of experience as somebody who dealt not just with the policy but the practice to demonstrate how this money somehow doesn't disappear, but is reinvested, creates wealth, creates economic opportunities for a wide variety of people.

Mr. TONKO. Certainly. As we struggle through these very difficult economic times, job creation, job retention is at the forefront of the work we do. We all talk about it every day. This is a good way that not only grows jobs but grows that energy independence and strengthens the energy outcome, and it does it in an environmentally friendly way.

So it's a powerful statement that we can make here as legislators.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate that very much.

Mr. INSLEE.

Mr. INSLEE. Thank you. I want to continue this discussion of job creation. I want to address—some of our colleagues may be watching tonight, possibly—a couple of industries that are concerned about this. One is the coal industry and one is the auto industry, two great industries doing hard work for a long time. And I want to address how our proposals tonight I believe long term will help those people working in those industries. Not hurt them, but help them, which we want to do. These are great, hardworking people.

I want to address the auto industry first. We know the difficulty we have

right now with many thousands of Americans who are in difficult straits in the auto industry right now. I believe that what we are proposing here can be a great tool for the rebirth of the American auto industry. Here's the reason I believe this.

Right now, we are in a race to build the next generation of the new car of the next couple of decades. We know it's going to be different than the car of the last several decades. We know it has to be. It has to not use as much Saudi Arabian oil so we would be addicted to Saudi Arabian oil as much.

We know it has to be advanced on materials. We are in a race to preserve the jobs of the American auto industry against folks in China who want to take these jobs and against folks in Korea who want to take these jobs. We are in a race right now with them to get these jobs in this country.

Well, to get these jobs in this country, we know we have to have the technology here to build these next generation of cars. We know to do that, we are going to need an investment to help the research and to help the retooling of these domestic auto industries to retool to start to build electric plug-in cars and the aerodynamic cars and the cars that can move to these new technologies with the new biofuel cars.

We have to win this race with China and Korea. To do that, we need an investment pool to help the auto industry to do that. Where are we going to get this pool? We are not suggesting we get it from some tax of lower- and middle-income Americans. We are suggesting we get it from an auction of the right to put pollution into the atmosphere and then use those funds to help auto workers build the cars of tomorrow and, for those who can't, to be retrained to help in some other industries, which is an important part of this.

Let me tell you why retraining is important. There's a company in Washington State called Infinia. Infinia makes a Stirling engine, a concentrating solar power system that basically it's a big parabola and concentrates the sun's energy and uses thermal energy from the sun to create electricity.

Guess who's the perfect workers to build those? It's auto workers. Because this technology is essentially right out of Detroit. Whatever you use to build a car, you use to build this Stirling engine, which could be one piece of the puzzle. They are now selling tons of these Stirling engines to Spain, and they are worried about having to build—not this company, but others in Spain—because Spain has policies like we are now advocating to try to move Spain forward. We need this right in this country.

Move to coal. People are concerned about coal. A company called Ramgen, which is a company that has figured out a way to compress carbon dioxide so you can stick it under the ground to

continue to burn coal. We know we need to have those technologies if it's going to be a meaningful player in the future.

Thanks.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Super. As we move into our last 10 minutes, I would like to turn again to my colleague from Boulder to share some of your further thoughts in terms of where you think we are now and how we move this forward.

Mr. POLIS. I'd like to build on some of my colleague from Washington's arguments about the opportunity for growth in the green economy.

My district and, in particular, Boulder, Colorado, has been a center of growth in the green jobs industry. In fact, when President Obama signed the Recovery Act a few weeks ago, he did so in Denver, and invited a company from my district, Namaste Solar, a company that had three people 3 years ago, now is up to 45 people, install solar home panels.

This has been—and, like many districts in the country, of course my district has been hit by this recession. We have seen unemployment rise. One of the biggest sectors we have seen job growth in is these green economy jobs—solar energy, the research and development.

It's not only areas that have strong solar and wind geophysical characteristics. We are also talking about energy conservation. There are several model homes in my district that are net energy positive. Put energy back on the grid. They get there, yes, with solar panels, but also by reducing their energy consumption, looking at insulation, a smart grid, and Boulder is the pilot for allowing energy consumption when there is more power on the grid and turning many homes into net energy producers during part of the day, as well, and having an intelligence aspect to appliances so they can draw from the grid when we have extra capacity.

Researching, developing and, yes, manufacturing these products are going to be a major sector for economic growth across our country in the future. When we talk about where America can still be competitive and will be competitive in manufacturing, it's in these high-tech items.

We do have a hard time, and we have been losing jobs to other countries in some of the manufacturing jobs that gave our middle class strength in the 20th century. But I am optimistic that we can grow in some of these short order, smart appliances, which traditionally have been and will continue to be developed and brought to market right here in this country, and be a critical part of this new economy.

I have had the chance to visit with a number of companies in our district. Our district is really a hot bed of entrepreneurial activity. And there are others in other parts of the country.

The more that public policy can embrace this, the more that we can serve

the dual goal of fostering economic development as well as preserving our natural heritage, reducing our carbon emissions and reliance on foreign oil, and all the issues which a number of my colleagues have so ably discussed that are critical reasons to invest in the green economy boom.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate you zeroing in, both of you, talking about the value that is added. A wind turbine, for instance, has more than 8,000 parts. There's cement, steel, ball bearings, copper, wiring. It goes up and down the production line. As soon as that order is placed, it moves out throughout the economy.

Congressman TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Right, Congressman BLUMENAUER. I'm enthralled by the comment made by Congressman INSLEE about the auto industry and the work that we can be doing on investing in new ideas and new concepts. Just in our recovery package that we did a few weeks ago was a major investment in advanced battery technology. That advanced battery technology can speak to not only transportation sectors in our economy, but to energy generation. And it may hold the secret to an awful lot of progress that we can make.

If we continue to invest in that R&D, I'm convinced we will have the automobile of the future. Also, when we look at some of these investments in R&D, they will incorporate other sectors of the economy like the ag economy, where you can diversify that ag economy to grow the produce that would be required to go forward with some of the fuels that we can create simply by using cellulosic formulas that include perhaps switch grass or soy products or whatever and go forward in a smart way that will look at the best outcomes that we can encourage by the government, based on energy required to create new energy, impacts on the ag, impact on environment, do those quantifiable studies and then determine what path to follow.

□ 2000

But we can do this with a great degree of skill and analysis that will move us into a new generation of thinking. But it takes the boldness. It takes that major step forward.

To your point about some of the opportunities with renewables, we are bringing in all aspects of opportunity from R&D from the highest technical sense on to the trades that will install these facilities and allow us to move forward with a smart grid to connect all of this, the smart metering concepts that we need to invest in so that we are using the power at the right time and making those consumer judgments that are in our best interests individually or household-wise and also collectively in a way that has the smartest energy consumers possible with the choices being placed before us and the job creation that is embraced by this sort of an agenda.

So I am really encouraged by the work that is being done in this House.

I know that in a caucus that we have created that deals with sustainable energy and environment outcomes, that is a powerful place to share these ideas and grow the synergy that will produce the policies that take us forward.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate that. And as I turn to my friend from Washington to conclude this session for us this evening, I do hope that our friends who are watching this program on TV, on C-SPAN, go to the President's budget. I hope they look on page 21. It is available at www.budget.gov. There are copies available in libraries. Look on page 21 where the President outlines his goal. He is talking about putting a price on carbon pollution, yes, returning the benefit to the American consumer, the American economy to be able to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, to reduce costs for paying for utilities, to be able to spark that green economy.

You know, I am struck by people who are making things up about what is in the President's plan and outlandish numbers that are associated with it, and I think we have gone a long way tonight towards debunking that and talking about the real cost that the American consumer and the environment is paying right now. But I am hopeful that people will embrace this, like we embraced the Clean Air Act where, on a bipartisan basis, people decided that it wasn't fair to pollute the atmosphere with sulfur dioxide; that we were going to have acid rain, that we are going to poison lakes in your area and kill forests. We put a price on it, and we were able to make remarkable progress with a very light touch as far as the government is concerned. We have this opportunity with carbon pollution to do exactly the same thing. The stakes, if anything, are higher.

I hope that our friends on the other side of the aisle stop this line of argument that somehow the Clean Air Act was a mistake, that a few polluting jobs were worth the damage that it inflicted on the environment, and ignore the lessons that we have learned.

Congressman INSLEE, I would appreciate it if you would kind of take us home.

Mr. INSLEE. Well, I would take it home to say this is an American approach to a problem. It really is. We basically are following in the footsteps of what Americans have always done when they are presented with a problem.

Number one, when Americans are presented with a challenge, we act. We don't just sit around on our hands. Some people are saying we should do nothing about this. We believe we need a new energy transformation of our economy to deal with this. So that is number one, we act. We are not a passive people.

Number two, we act with confidence in our ability to innovate and find solutions to these problems based on technological solutions. Other people think we are just too dull to figure out

how not to just burn fossil fuels. We think we are smart enough that the people who went to the moon and invented the cup holder ought to be able to invent ways to solve this problem. So we act with confidence.

Third, we would like to act in a bipartisan way. You know, you would think that growing green collar jobs and saving the planet from global warming would be a bipartisan thing; but, unfortunately, so far in this debate we have advocated an action plan, and there is a thousand ways to skin this cat, there is various ways to deal with regional cost disparities, there is various ways to distribute the pool of revenue between research and helping low income people. There is all kinds of permutations that we are going to find a consensus on eventually. But, unfortunately, our friends across the aisle have just adopted a favorite movie of Ian Fleming, "Dr. No." They have just said no. And I hope that over time some of our friends across the aisle will join us in finding a consensus on how to move forward. If we do that, we are going to continue to enjoy successes in building jobs for Americans like we have in the wind energy industry.

I will just close with this one comment. People 4 or 5 years ago said that wind turbines were kind of child's play; they were a fancy toy of a bunch of fruitcakes out on the West Coast who were dreaming in their teepees of how to solve this problem. Today, America is the leading producer of wind power in the world, and more people work today in the wind power industry than in the coal mining industry and it is the fastest growing of energy in the United States.

This is the kind of future that we believe we can move forward in. It doesn't mean that we are going to replace coal necessarily. We are going to use this money that we are going to generate from this plan to try to find a way to burn coal cleanly, because we think we ought to look at all possible approaches to this problem. So we are going to act, we are going to be confident, we are going to believe in bipartisanship, and we are going to believe in innovation. That is the American response to this problem, and I look forward to when we get this done. Thank you, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well said.

Mr. Speaker, we yield back the balance of our time.

ETHICAL ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE RESOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized for this time.

I have been coming down here now for 2 or 3 weeks talking about fact that we have some ethical issues that need to be resolved, and that is something I

think is important. I am going to try to frame that so you can understand why I think it is important.

Tonight, we have been talking about Mr. Obama's budget. I just enjoyed immensely the argument that was just made a few minutes ago about energy. And I really wish, sometime it would really be nice up here if we could do one of these things where we talk back and forth and ask questions. I would like to address that a little bit, because it is a big part of this budget. It is going to be this huge tax program that is being put together, and I would like some questions answered.

It seems to me that what I heard argued just a few minutes ago was that we have a real crisis with carbon, carbon dioxide. I think most Americans know that we are major producers of carbon dioxide. If you don't think so, take a big breath and then let it out, and you will have just produced carbon dioxide. So I think we realize that it is kind of a natural process that is going on. But if we need to fix that, then we need to slow down the amount of carbon dioxide going out into the atmosphere. And as I understand the proposal is that let's say you have a widget plant that is belching out carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in record numbers because it is burning, let's just use that horrible substance they were discussing, coal. And even though it is being scrubbed for the sulfur dioxide, which the Clean Air Act dealt with, it is still putting out carbon dioxide, the substance that is the part of the fuel of photosynthesis in plants across the entire global, including the microscopic plants that grow in the oceans of the world, and it is just too much.

Now, the plan they are proposing in the President's budget, as I understand it, is that they will have to pay a tax that the government would say this is the amount of carbon dioxide we are going to allow to come out of one source, and the government would determine what that ceiling would be. It is called a cap. And then they would say, every bit that you put out above that cap, we are going to tax you on it because we are going to use the tax money to acquire some kind of credits that the people are selling that don't pollute. Or maybe they are not even going to that. Maybe they are just saying, we are going to tax you so we can do research and development on new energy, which is what they seem to be saying tonight. If that be the case, then how does that tax stop that carbon emission out of that plant? I don't get that. Maybe someone can explain it to me.

Now, I guess, yes, you could stop it if the tax were so onerous that the plant owner said the product that I am producing, and let's say on that particular plant rather than it being widgets it is electricity, that this is going to make my cost of electricity so onerous that I won't be able to sell my electricity so I will just shut down my electricity

plant. That is the way economy works. At some point in time when the cost is such that you can't make a profit from the product that you are producing, maybe you would shut it down. I don't understand how that would help particularly the energy problems of the United States, and I don't think that is what would be envisioned.

I think what would really be envisioned is that the evil corporation, if you will, would have to pay the tax and eat the tax. In other words, it would come out of their profits. Now, the evil corporation is really a group of American citizens and maybe other country citizens who have bought stock in the evil corporation, and they have invested their money in it in hopes that they would make a profit. And so is the solution that you think the corporation is going to do is that this tax that has been put on this coal emission is going to be paid by the corporation, which means by the stockholders, the owners, so they are just going the take less profit. At what point in time are the owners, that is the stockholders, going to be happy with their profit being reduced until they make no profit? I don't think very long. So then they would close down our power plant. But that is not what the solution is, either.

The reality is, and it is in every case in every industry demonstrated every day across the world, is that tax will then go to the consumer of the product that that company is selling. Therefore, the cap tax we just heard about from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would be paid by the consumer. Unless you are sitting in the dark watching television by candlelight, you are probably using electricity in your home. I say that tongue in cheek, because I guess you could watch television with a battery. But the facts are you are burning electricity every day, and you are going to pay the tax.

Now, they are going to put a tax on oil and gas products because they create carbon emissions, CO₂, the same as you create carbon emissions, by breathing. So they are going to tax the oil and gas industry. And guess who is going to pay the tax; the oil and gas industry is going to pass that tax on to the consumer. So if it is a nickel on a gallons of gasoline, the nickel is going to be yours to pay. If it is 50 cents on a gallon of gasoline, the 50 cents is going to be yours to pay, and the price of gasoline is going up.

□ 2015

The price of gasoline is going up.

There is a bigger picture here you need to see. If you could look around this room, this gigantic House of Representatives, you would see leather and wooden seats, beautiful carpeting, gorgeous lights everywhere, all these various paintings and tapestries on the walls, glass, brass, steel, concrete and stone. All of that is in this room right here. How do you think it got here?

How do you think the wallpaper up there got here? Did somebody bring it up here with a horse? Did they pack it on their back? No. They put it in a truck or on a train. And that truck or train delivered everything in this room to this building to be installed by the workers who got here in automobiles and pickups. So everything in this room was brought to you by motor fuel, including diesel fuel that burns in our trains that pull our freight cars. So everything in this room was brought to you by diesel or gasoline. So if tomorrow you were rebuilding this room, and if our new and wonderful "nobody in the middle class will have to pay tax increase" that we were just told by our colleagues, if that is there, then if it costs the wallpaper people extra money to get the wallpaper here because the price of diesel has gone up 20 cents a gallon, then the price of wallpaper is going up 20 cents a roll, or some equivalent, to make it up. If the brass manufacturers, if they are not using any kind of fuel to make brass, but they are shipping it here somehow magically, they are going to use diesel, because that is what drives our trucks. And the brass is going up, the concrete is going up, and the leather is going up. Everything in this room is going up because we have placed a new tax on fuel.

Now, is any of that fuel not being burned? No. That fuel is still being burned. Is there carbon going into the atmosphere? Yes. There is carbon going into the atmosphere. Guess who is paying this tax? You are. And you're going to pay it if you make \$10,000 a year, and you're going to pay it if you make \$10 million a year because you're a consumer. And so the tax is going to be passed down to the consumer. So when you say this is not a tax on the middle class, it is a farce.

That comes back to the issue of people need to make trustworthy statements when they say things around here. People need to explain things in a clear picture so the public can understand it. Then the American public needs to decide what is right and what is wrong. To me, I would like anybody to explain to me how this stuff would get here if it wasn't for a diesel truck or a train. I would like anybody to tell me how that would happen. Or maybe they fly an airplane in here on air freight, which is even more expensive and which is going to have an even bigger tax on it because it is a fuel guzzler and it creates carbon.

So what we have been told here tonight is that there is going to be no tax on the middle class. Yet, people who do something that I wouldn't do for a living, but sit around and calculate an estimate of what these things might cost, are saying that this new energy tax, this tax on energy is going to cost every household in America \$3,128 annually. Now maybe for somebody making \$250,000 a year, that hurts a little bit. But, boy, it hurts the heck out of the teacher in Round Rock, Texas, making \$32,000 a year. It hurts the heck

out of that truck driver that drives that truck that maybe makes \$30,000 a year or \$35,000 a year. If he is really a hustler, he makes \$50,000 a year. Everything he is going to use, plus the fuel he is burning, is going to cost him more. And the freight charges are going up.

So, wake up. You can't put a tax on something that everybody uses and not expect everybody to have to pay for the tax. It is just that simple. This is not rocket science. This is basic logic 101.

The reason we need to have ethical issues resolved in this House is because the American people need to learn to trust us to try to shoot straight with them. And those people who don't have a track record of shooting straight, at least you can make that conclusion because of accusations made against them, maybe you should worry about their leadership. Now, the question I would ask myself and you—and what my whole position has been on ethics issues is that these ethics issues need to be resolved so that you know you can trust when somebody stands up at that mic or that one over there or this one right here and tells you something, and you say, yeah, but what about that accusation? Hey, maybe it's not true. Okay, maybe it is not true. But it ought to be resolved. This body ought to resolve accusations that are made against the people that they have done something that is unethical.

Now, I'm not making the accusations. I'm telling you that the newspapers are making the accusations, the talk shows are making the accusations, the TV news at 6 o'clock is making the accusations, and people that claim to be the watchdogs of American politics are making the accusations. I just want them resolved. I want the Ethics Committee or the courts or whoever it takes to resolve the issues to resolve the issues, so that when somebody stands up here and tells you there is not going to be a tax on the middle class, but we are going to tax every kind of carbon-burned fuel, when 90 percent of the fuel, probably 95 percent of the fuel used for every purpose on the face of this Earth is carbon based, then do you know what? You're going to say, "I would like to know if that is somebody that is very trustworthy that I ought to be listening to."

I hope that is not convoluted logic. But I sit here and ask you, if you assume that what these gentlemen said tonight was true, and they are going to use this stuff for research to come up with alternative fuels, you tell me when is the first truck going to be invented with an electric motor big enough to haul freight down the highways of the United States? When is it going to happen? Nobody is talking about that. They are not talking about it because the electric engine that it would take to haul the loads of freight down the interstate to bring stuff to your home so you have the goods and the services of this Nation, that electrical engine would be as big as that

podium or bigger than the Speaker's tonight. In fact, they even make some electric engines that size in my district for ships in the sea. And they are gigantic, half as big as this room, to get the kind of torque, to get the kind of power out of electricity to pull a heavy load. So, think when you hear these things being talked about, how long will it take to get to a point that goods and services can be brought to you the way they are brought to you now without this tax being imposed upon you? I would submit, it is not decades. It may be centuries.

So, I'm a little off the subject. But when you start talking about this budget, this is the kind of thing we want to talk about. Can you honestly think that you're getting a straight shot when you hear about some of this stuff?

I'm very happy to see my friend from North Carolina. She is one of the real tough ladies in this House. VIRGINIA FOXX is here to join me. And I'm glad to have her. I will yield whatever time the gentlelady may use up.

Ms. FOXX. Well, I thank my colleague from Texas for starting this Special Order tonight and giving me a chance to come down and be you with you and spend some time talking about several different issues. I certainly agree with you that it is important for the American people to have faith and trust in their elected officials. And I think that there is a great deal of cynicism in this country. And people wonder what can they believe in? I think that it is important that when they hear us speaking on the floor, or they get letters from us, or they have other means of communications from us, that they know that we are telling them the truth.

When I first came here, we had folks speaking on the floor almost every night. A group of us who were new in the Congress that year, in 2005, were so concerned about the things that were being said that we established a group called the "Truth Squad." And we would come down at night after that group would speak and set the record straight by giving out what we thought were true statements. They were often very different from the statements that were being made by our colleagues. I think it is important that we do this on every occasion, because frankly, I think in the last 3 years or so, the American people have really been sold a bill of goods.

All of us would like to see things easier, better and less expensive. We would like to think that life would be a lot easier than it is. But we have challenges that we deal with every day. It is not likely that the government is going to be able to make our lives easier for us. Yet, that is what has been sold, I think, to the American people. We haven't had the benefit of having a large segment of the media on our side in order to be able to counteract some of those things that were said.

I want to give a little detail, put a little meat on the bones of some of the

things that you have been talking about in terms of what would this cap-and-tax plan do to us in the country? We have been told that everybody making less than \$250,000 is not going to be taxed in this country and that 95 percent of the people are going to get a tax cut. But let's talk a little bit again about the particulars of this. It is actually \$250,000 per couple. It is not \$250,000 for an individual. It doesn't exempt small businesses who often are taxed at the individual rate. So there are some minor little details in there in what has been told about taxes and about the budget that has been presented.

To go to your point about what the increase in taxes are going to do to the American people, you are absolutely right. Every single family is going to be paying for these ideas that are being brought up under the guise of "scientific knowledge." I don't know about you, but I haven't seen any conclusive proof presented that the science can support this. We know that President Obama himself said, "under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket." So we know that is going to happen. But no one has explained to the American people how that is going to happen.

There was a piece done by FOXNews just a few days ago, I think somewhere around March 4, where an energy analyst, Margot Thorning, said: "In dollar cost terms, it is probably an additional \$700 to \$1,400 per family per year starting around 2012." That is right around the corner. So what the President says he is going to give is a tax cut. But that is going to amount to about \$600 to \$800, and at the same time, the families are going to be charged about \$1,400 more in energy costs. So what the government is going to give, it is also going to take away.

I think, again, what you're doing is great. I have pointed out many times that the North Carolina State motto is "to be, rather than to seem." I have brought that up several times on the floor because I think that is what the American people want out of us here in Congress.

□ 2030

The American people don't want us to seem rather than to be; and yet what is being done here in the name of science and in the name of protecting us from the climate change that they believe is occurring is going to be a pretty expensive trial as to whether or not this is going to work. And we don't know. It is an experiment, really. It is not proven science. We don't know that we are causing global warming with carbon. We have had global warming and global cooling even before human beings were on the Earth.

So I think it is a great thing that you are doing, to tie programs, budgets, proposals and policies to this issue of ethics because they are tied together and are very important. I want to commend you for doing that.

We have been joined by some of our very articulate colleagues here tonight, and I want to give them an opportunity to share their knowledge, their enthusiasm for this issue.

Mr. CARTER. Let me point out, I have a poster board here. Now some might think I have been picking on Chairman RANGEL too much, and I don't intend to do that, but this is to make my point. Chairman RANGEL is in charge of taxation. That is his job. He is the tax man of this House.

We have a little quote here from a real conservative news source we all love and adore, the New York Times, January 3, 2009, "Rangel Pushed for a Donation; Insurer Pushed for a Tax Cut." It is written by David Kocieniewski. "On April 21, 2008, Representative Charles B. Rangel met with officials of the American International Group, the now-troubled insurance giant, to ask for a donation to a school of public service that City College of New York was building in his honor," and I will point out named after him.

"Mr. Rangel had already helped secure a \$5 million pledge for the project from a foundation controlled by Maurice R. Greenberg, one of the company's largest shareholders and its former chief executive. And CCNY officials, according to the school's own records, had high hopes for AIG—a donation of perhaps as much as \$10 million."

Some may have heard of AIG. It has been a little bit in the news lately.

Now my point is that is an accusation made by the New York Times, not by me, not by any Member of this House. That is an accusation made by the New York Times that should be resolved because it is about our number one tax man, and our number one tax man along with the President of the United States is going to be championing the Democrat budget of \$3.6 trillion, a number that almost defies imagination.

We have gotten used to trillions in the last 60 days because we have seen lots of them. They are everywhere. This administration is throwing trillions around like tennis balls at Wimbledon and we are sitting here looking at a new little slight glitch of \$3.6 trillion. I would think that the average American looking at this budget would like to know that the people that designed it and the people that put it together shoot straight, deal ethically with issues. And they would like to know that, but they have an accusation from the New York Times that says contrary to that.

So is there a place to resolve that? Yes, we have one. It is called the Ethics Committee. But there is no action out of the Ethics Committee. It just kind of sits there.

So I guess our famous Rangel rule which now is on everybody's tongue about special privileges for Mr. RANGEL, I guess we add this to the Rangel rule. I don't know what else to do with it. If you have accusations and the Ethics Committee doesn't act, then they

just go away. Trust me, everything is okay because the Ethics Committee hasn't acted. Well, I think they should.

I will start, beauty over the beast. I have both MICHELE BACHMANN and LYNN WESTMORELAND here, and so I will turn to MICHELE BACHMANN to talk about the budget and about trusting those who are going to be giving us these numbers and these ideas and shouldn't we have the ethical issues resolved as they lead this Congress down a \$3.6 trillion path.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, Judge CARTER, for yielding on that point. You could not have set up this segment better to talk about ethics and talk about those who are writing our budget, that they need to live under the laws that they are creating. You quoted from the New York Times article that said there are high hopes for AIG.

The American people had very high hopes for AIG, the largest insurance company in the world. They should, after all, the American people own AIG now. We own 80 percent of AIG. The American people have been forced to invest \$173 billion in this company. And they just found out that \$165 million, perhaps as much as \$450 million, has been paid out in bonuses to some of the executives at AIG. And the American people are outraged. They realize that is their money, and that money is going out on bonuses.

But then along came a story from CNN. And CNN said guess what, in President Obama's stimulus package earlier this year, we remember, that is the over-trillion-dollar bill that none of us were allowed to read because the Obama administration wouldn't release that bill until after midnight, and we started debate the next morning at 9 in the morning, contained in that stimulus bill is an interesting provision that was put in by the head of the Banking Committee on the Senate side, Senator CHRIS DODD.

Senator CHRIS DODD inserted a provision into the stimulus bill that said essentially this: it said that the bonuses that would be given out to any of these companies can stay with the people who get the bonuses unless they are given after February 11, 2009. In other words, these bonuses that AIG received are prohibited by the language in the stimulus bill from being recouped by the U.S. Government. We are prohibited. Our hands are tied. This is President Obama's stimulus bill and the chair, the Democrat chair of the Banking Committee, inserted an amendment that prevented the taxpayer from recouping any bonuses that would be paid out to the executives.

Now this is a curious thing because CNN also reported that the largest beneficiary of campaign donations in 2008 from AIG was Senator CHRIS DODD. So Senator CHRIS DODD, CNN said, was the largest recipient at over \$103,000, managed to slip into President Obama's stimulus bill, which he didn't give any

time for any Member of Congress to read, a provision that would have prevented the American people from recouping any of these bonuses.

Now I think that raises questions I would suggest along the line of the gentleman that you've been raising about the ethical requirements of the people who are serving the American people.

With that, I yield back to the Judge. Mr. CARTER. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. LYNN WESTMORELAND.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Judge, I think what we have to look at is connecting the dots. We see in a lot of these children's puzzle books and stuff, you connect the dots to see the big picture. I think if we could see the picture of all of these dots connected, it would be hypocrisy that has come down from the Democratic leadership and we could go back to even when they first became the majority in January of 2007, because prior to that they talked about they had a way of lowering gas prices. Judge, you will remember gas prices went to over \$4 a gallon in some areas. They never told us how they were going to get that down. The only way that came down was what we did in August of that year, and really exposed the energy situation for what it was. And I think the speculators finally realized that we were serious about doing something for our own energy policy.

Then if you look at the problems that Mr. RANGEL has had. Just to list a few, the loan-subsidized apartments that he had, the fact that he was using letterhead to solicit some of these campaign contributions, the fact that he received the money from AIG and the other people who received some of this bailout, the fact that he didn't pay his taxes, if you look at that, that is not anything in itself, but if you connect the dots with all of the other things that are going on, I think that shows a picture that they did what it took to get elected.

We can look at that with what President Obama's campaign promise was, that he would drive the lobbyists out of the White House. And now he is writing waivers. It seems like every time he does an appointment, he has to write a waiver because they are a lobbyist. We have Mr. Geithner who was approved by the Senate as the Treasury Secretary who has similar tax problems. So you connect all of the dots, and what seems to be happening is we see a chain of events that may seem separate, but they are really kind of all tied together.

And then if you look at what President Obama's chief of staff Rahm Emanuel said, and I can't remember the exact words, but he said never let a crisis pass without taking advantage of it.

And so if you look at this financial crisis and what has happened and what

has taken place, look at how they are taking advantage of it with this \$3.6 trillion budget that they are proposing, with a cap-and-trade, which is another tax that is going to be on the 95 percent that he promised would never have a tax.

If you look at the bonuses for AIG, well, the reason that they are getting the bonuses is because the government intervened into that business. If the government had not intervened and saved AIG, I don't know what kind of financial calamity would have been out there, but I promise you these guys wouldn't have gotten a bonus. So we enabled them to do that. So now what's the government going to do? Everybody is in an uproar over these bonuses being paid to these executives, as well they should. But now is the government going to say we have a crisis, we need to step in and intervene in contracts between employers and employees? And so this is another one of these crises, for the government to take one more step into our lives and into our businesses.

So this is a connect-the-dot picture that we have got to keep in mind. This is a lot bigger than what we ever anticipated or that the American people would think that they were getting.

Mr. Daschle was another one. Ron Kirk. We could go on. Ms. WATERS, and others.

Judge, has the Ethics Committee met, because if I remember correctly back in November, Speaker PELOSI said that she was going to have this Rangel problem resolved by the end of December of 2008. I guess she did that for the elections, but it is not resolved yet, and I have not even heard of them having a hearing.

Mr. CARTER. I haven't heard a peep out of them. Just recently, we have another story that has come out from the Congressional Quarterly, "Waters Calls TARP Meeting for her Husband's Bank." This is by Bennett Roth, part of CQ staff.

"Watchdog groups claimed Waters took inappropriate actions on behalf of OneUnited Bank which received financial assistance from the Federal Government last fall. Waters, a senior member of the Financial Services Committee which oversees banking issues, last year requested a meeting between Treasury Department officials and representatives of minority-owned banks, including OneUnited on whose board her husband, Sydney Williams, had previously served. He also held stock in the bank."

That's not our accusation, that's an accusation by a publication that is read regularly in the halls of Congress and informs us of what is going on. That is an issue that should be addressed by the body that is required to address it, the Ethics Committee.

□ 2045

Is that unethical behavior? Possibly not. Possibly it is. But she is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing

and Community Opportunity, which means that whatever housing there may be in the Obama bill, this \$3.6 trillion Obama bill—and Lord, for that much money there ought to be a couple of houses in there anyway—then if that is the case, she would be the spokesman for the housing attitudes of the U.S. Government of the majority party, the Democratic Party—who run this place, by the way. If nobody gets it yet, the majority rules in the House of Representatives. So when you have 38 more votes than the other guys, you win, they lose. That's the way it works. If you've got one more vote and everybody stays with you, you win, they lose.

So they own all of this. This Bush bashing that we hear around here, wake up. The man is hanging out in Crawford chasing cattle; he's not doing this job anymore. This is your job, the Democratic Party's job. They are doing this job here, with the leadership of Barack Obama, their President. He, with their help, proposed \$3.6 trillion.

And when it comes to housing, we must rely upon MAXINE WATERS, the leader of that subcommittee. That issue ought to be resolved. I think that's important.

This is the whole point of this whole thing. You know, this banking thing, we are all worried to death about this banking thing. And I don't think any Member of Congress—or for that matter, any American—isn't concerned about this tightening, choking down of credit that has taken place in the United States. And therefore, the entrepreneurial spirit of America is being choked down because of stupid mistakes that were made by the government. And let's maybe talk about those for just a little bit. And I will first yield to MICHELE BACHMANN.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I am wondering when it will be that Congress will finally have hearings on itself and on the culpability of Members of Congress for this housing meltdown.

We look at individuals who were involved in shielding Freddie and Fannie for years from any sort of tightening, any sort of regulatory burden, any sort of accountability, any sort of transparency—for years. We look at comments that were made even by the current head of the Financial Services Committee. I sit on the Financial Services Committee. And the chairman of our committee, BARNEY FRANK, had made statements when he was confronted by former Treasury Secretary John Snow that Freddie and Fannie were in deep trouble. And he also foretold of a housing collapse that he was portending on into the future for the United States. And the comments from Representative FRANK were, don't worry, everything's fine; there's no problem with Freddie and Fannie. People knew we were looking at a meltdown.

When are we going to have those hearings? When are we going to hear

from Members of Congress, their culpability in bringing about this housing meltdown, about the Members of Congress who loosened and relaxed the platinum level standards of lending in our country? We had platinum levels of standards of lending for over 200 years in our country. Those lending standards were so reduced, that created our subprime mortgage mess. It even created a problem in prime mortgages because the lending standards were so reduced. That just didn't happen in the free market, because private businesses, they want to limit their risks. It was the Federal Government that forced these private businesses to maximize risk. With what? The promises that good old Uncle Sam, the chump called Joe taxpayer would bail these businesses out—AIG, Freddie, Fannie—if anything went wrong. We need to have a hearing where Members of Congress are called on the carpet for their involvement in leading to this housing collapse.

I yield back.

Mr. CARTER. And just another little news story here that broke. This is a former colleague of ours. He is now maybe in one of the most powerful positions in the United States, he is the Chief of Staff of the White House, Rahm Emanuel. This is from ABC News, a very conservative source. "Emanuel was Director of Freddie Mac during the scandal. \$25,000 Freddie to Emanuel equals \$200 billion taxpayers to Freddie," written by Brian Ross and Rhonda Schwartz.

"President-elect Barack Obama's newly appointed Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, served on the board of directors of the Federal mortgage firm, Freddie Mac, at a time when scandal was brewing at the troubled agency, and the board failed to spot red flags, according to government reports reviewed by abc.com. The actions by Freddie Mac are cited by some economists as the beginning of the country's economic meltdown."

"The Federal Government this year was forced to take over Freddie Mac and his sister Federal mortgage agency, Fannie Mae, pledging at least \$200 billion in public funds." And that is not my news story, that is ABC's news story.

And of course our Ethics Committee, bless their hearts, I don't think they have to deal with Mr. Rahm Emanuel. I think maybe the White House has to deal with the issues of Mr. Rahm Emanuel, and maybe they should. But it is the White House budget that we're talking about, and he is the chief policy officer of the White House. So I would assume that Mr. Rahm Emanuel's fingerprints are all over this budget. And I would expect Mr. Rahm Emanuel to be a spokesman for this budget. And we all can watch, in breathless anticipation, and see if I'm telling the truth. But let's watch and see. But those sort of things ought to be cleared up with the American people because at least one news source is say-

ing this was the start of the crisis we're in, and he was right in the middle of it. So those are the kinds of things we have to look at.

Mr. SCALISE has joined us. I will yield such time as you would like to have to comment on what we're talking about here today.

Mr. SCALISE. Well, I want to thank my friend from Texas for hosting this and really helping unravel the mess, as Americans all across the country are very frustrated, they are angry about what's happening with our economy, they are angry when they read about what happened with AIG. And then I think they get cynical when they see some of the very people who helped create this mess going on all of these talk shows over the weekend, pointing their fingers everywhere else other than themselves and saying it was this administration or that administration.

You can find more than enough blame to go around, but if you really go back to the root—and I think you've started to touch on it—the problems that existed with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, going back to the Community Reinvestment Act, going back to the 1990s when a gentleman who represented part of my State from Louisiana, Richard Baker from Baton Rouge, who actually sat on the Financial Services Committee, he had the guts to go and take on Fannie and Freddie back in the 1990s, and he exposed all of this. And this is all out there on the Internet, it's information you can actually go and verify. You can look at those hearings—and many Americans already have. And for those who haven't, it would be a really good history lesson to go back and look at those hearings that he had as he was calling on the government to finally reform these institutions who were being encouraged—not by some bank on Wall Street, not by George W. Bush, this goes back to the Clinton administration—but it was people in Congress, some people who are right now chairmen of these very committees that have oversight, and he was fighting and saying we have got to reform Fannie and Freddie because this entire situation is going to melt down.

We've got institutions that are encouraging people, using the strength of the Federal Government, encouraging people to give out loans to people who don't have the ability to pay. And Members of Congress who are in leadership positions today were giving edicts to Fannie and Freddie saying go out and give those loans to people who don't have any ability to pay, when people all across our country—people in my district, your district—people who are playing by the rules today go out and want to get a home mortgage, they have to prove their ability to pay, they have to prove that they've got equity, they have to put up maybe 20 percent, they've got to fill out a bunch of forms. And ultimately they make their payments. Over 90 percent of the people in this country, even in these tough

economic times today, are making their payments on their mortgage. Yet, you have a small group of people—some who actually lied on their application, but some who were encouraged by the Federal Government to get loans that they didn't have the ability to pay by these institutions, Fannie and Freddie. And people like Richard Baker, back in the 1990s, were saying we've got to reform this corrupt system. And yet, some of the very people who are now yelling at the top of their lungs at the top of this Capitol saying, blame this guy and blame that guy, they were there defending Fannie and Freddie. And it's all out there on the Internet, you can actually go and see it.

And yet, when you look at what happened with AIG just 2 weeks ago—and of course, again, you've got the record to go and check it—President Obama's spokesperson was asked about the next \$30 billion that the Federal Government released to AIG. And they said, what do you think about the money that AIG has already gotten so far, the \$150 billion they had already gotten; they said, do you think that that money has been spent properly? And the White House actually said yes. They said, yes, we think AIG has done good things with the money.

Now, clearly AIG has not. AIG has been caught giving bonuses, hundreds of millions of dollars—up to \$6.5 million for some executives—in bonuses with taxpayer money. And some of those very same people are yelling and screaming at the top of their lungs. And we are all outraged, but Americans that are outraged are looking at this and they are getting very cynical because they are saying, wait a minute, we can actually go back and unravel this, we can look and see some of these same people. And those of us who voted against the financial bailout last year because we knew this was the wrong approach, we knew giving taxpayer money to help these financial groups on Wall Street who made irresponsible decisions, we knew that was bad public policy, but yet some of those very same people who voted to give the money are now yelling about how the money is being spent, even though they allowed the money to be spent that way. It was a wrong approach then. We should have never done it. We're seeing how flawed that system is now. But I think people across the country, they do get it. They are seeing what's happening out there and they are realizing that some of these very same people that are yelling at the top of their lungs and expressing outrage were the ones who actually voted to give that taxpayer money away.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, you mentioned Wall Street. And Wall Street has taken a big hickey here lately. And you know who really took the hickey was the American people. And one of the things that I think everybody dreads doing almost as much as taking out the garbage is looking at

their 401(k) or their pension plan after this last 60 days of the Obama administration and this trillion dollar leadership of this Democrat-led House of Representatives.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Can I interrupt the gentleman? It's not the last 60 days, this is his first 60 days.

Mr. CARTER. First 60 days, yes. Thank you for correcting me.

And then, lo and behold, under the President's budget, taxes on capital gains and dividends would increase from 15 to 20 percent, increasing their taxes on investments by \$398 billion over 10 years. So if the poor old guy whose 401(k) is almost used to wrap the garbage in, if he starts to have any kind of rally on the stock market at any time in the foreseeable future—at least the next 10 years—this budget we are being asked to pass, this \$3.6 trillion budget, is going to raise the taxes on his poor little old beat-up 401(k), or on your pension plans. This is a direct tax on American families.

And believe me, contrary to popular belief by the other side of the aisle, there are a lot of people in this country who make a whole lot less than \$250,000 a year who own stock in corporations in America because they believe in the free enterprise system. They have invested in a way they feel is adequate to be good for their families, and they will be hit by this capital gains tax.

I will yield to Mr. WESTMORELAND.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank my friend from Texas.

You were talking about Wall Street, the large banks that got the bulk of this TARP money. Our local community banks and some of the smaller banks did not get this. And the whole reason that this Congress—and I didn't vote for it, but I think a reason that the people that did were sold a bill of goods by then Secretary Paulson that this was going to unfreeze the credit market, but it has not done that.

And what has happened to the FDIC—and I'm not sure if the gentleman has heard this yet, but I had some of my local bankers call me, going from \$100,000 to \$250,000, their premiums are going up. That is the way the FDIC is funded is through premiums on this deposit guarantee. And so they are going up on the premium. And so now they are not only having to pay a high premium on \$100,000, but the high premium on \$250,000. But here's the kicker; they are going to be charged a one-time fee from the FDIC on their deposits—I think it is, or their assets.

To my friend from Texas, I was told today by somebody in our Georgia banking community that if you took all the profits of all the banks in Georgia and added it together, the fees that these banks were going to be charged would be more than the money that they made all last year. Now, that is a double whammy on the small community banks that have been basically responsible for funding our small businesses in our communities that have not had access to this TARP money.

□ 2100

So what has happened is the big banks and the FDIC and the others who have let this situation get way out of hand are here again sticking their money down and getting the investors and the shareholders from these local banks their money. And these banks are owned by local people.

I know we're getting short on time, but I want to thank you for doing this. And I think we need to remember that we need to continue not only with some of these ethics that you brought up, but we need to connect all these dots and get the clear picture of where this new administration and this larger majority is trying to take this country.

Mr. CARTER. Well, I agree.

Reclaiming my time, I thank Mr. WESTMORELAND for pointing that out. And, actually, I have talked to my community banks too, and they are very concerned about the massive increase in their assessment by FDIC and the fact they're going to have to pay a premium. But also what's really sad is they're the guys who made good loans. See, what people don't realize is that these community banks can hold their heads up high. They're not asking for TARP money because they didn't make bad loans. They stuck to the banking principles that their boards of directors made, and they stayed away from the pressure, with some exceptions, but in the vast majority of the cases across this country, the community bank system made sound, good business decisions. And now, unfortunately, because of the way it works, they are going to have to pay the penalty for those people who went off and made bad loans.

Now, we understand and I think our bankers will tell you they understand that's how the FDIC works and it's a program that they rely upon. But it still is part of that old "taint fair" system that you and I have been talking about for the last couple of days.

I want to bring up just one more thing that's in this budget that I think is going to be a real issue for some awfully important people in this country. This budget that they've got out here caps the value of itemized deductions at 28 percent for those who have income over \$250,000 married or \$200,000 single, which will reduce charitable giving in this country by \$9 billion. You know, I don't know why in the world you would want to hit the charities, the Cancer Society, the Heart Fund, the First Methodist Church, or the Third Baptist Church, why you would want to hit those people's pocketbooks to fund \$3.6 trillion, but to me, that's questionable. We ought to be questioning that, and we ought to be saying why in the world do we have to basically put a burden on charities? And then tomorrow, tomorrow, we're supposed to vote on a bill to pay volunteers with taxpayer dollars. So we're going to pay volunteers with taxpayer dollars rather than encourage private sector donors to take care of community problems that they all work hard

to take care of. This is nuts. This is European socialism at its best.

Americans have hearts of gold. One of the things that the American people liked that Ronald Reagan said about them was he reminded them that deep down inside every American there burned that flame of liberty and freedom that made them good people who were all heroes because they got up in the morning and they went to work and they took care of their families. And yet it seems that whoever put together this budget doesn't view America that way. They view it differently.

Finally, something that I have been appalled with forever is taxing death. A guy works all of his life. He pays his taxes. He takes care of his bills. He works double shifts and works hard. He acquires some property, and that property gains value, whatever the property may be. And he's happy because he's been an honest taxpaying citizen. And then he dies, and lo and behold the United States Government wants to come in and tax him on his death.

Now, I have a good friend, and I'm not going to use his name because I don't have his permission to use it, but he is from Clayton, New Mexico, and he'll know who he is, who had a beautiful ranching operation in Clayton, New Mexico, when I knew him at Texas Tech University and he was a buddy of mine. And he had two really nice ranches in that area, the home place and another ranch. I ran into him in Rocksprings, Texas, a while back, and I asked him how he was doing, and he said, "Well, I'm living in Texas now. I'm ranching in Texas."

I said, "What happened to Clayton, New Mexico?"

He said, "The taxman took it." He said, "When my dad died, I had to sell land, and the only land I could sell was the home place, which was the best place; so that only left me with our worst little ranch. I traded that for a small place down here in Texas, and I'm down here scratching out a living on about a third of what my daddy worked and fought for and my great-granddaddy and my granddaddy died for in fighting to tame that part of New Mexico."

I don't know. I find that's pretty offensive to me. Why does the United States Government deserve to put the fourth generation of that family out of the ranching business so they can tax a guy that has already paid his taxes? But that's headed our way in this new \$3.6 trillion budget.

I'm not going to tonight go into the rest of the examples that I have here. We'll go into those another time. But I hope I've made it clear that my purpose to get up and talk about these ethical problems is not to make the kind of accusations that were made two Congresses ago against the Republican Party about "culture of corruption" because I don't think that's appropriate. I am only pointing out there are issues that have been raised by the watchdogs of this Congress, the press, that should be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your patience and thank you for this evening.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor this evening to talk about a topic that's very much on the minds of my constituents and many Americans, and that's health care reform. I think that many of us know that President Obama has paid a lot of attention to this. It was a major focus during the campaign. And since he's become President, he's already addressed health care reform in some significant ways, both in the SCHIP, or Children's Health Care expansion legislation, that was passed in the House and the Senate and signed by the President about a month ago, as well as in the economic recovery package, which has several initiatives related to health care reform. I would like to talk a little bit about those tonight, but I'd also like to talk about where we go from here.

The President had a health care summit about 2 weeks ago where he talked about health care reform and outlined what might be done in this Congress. He said he wanted to get the health care reform bill passed and on his desk this year if at all possible. And he's also in his budget outlined some ways of paying for it through cost efficiencies and other means. So this is an issue that's very much on the mind of the President and certainly on the mind of this Congress, and, also, we have begun to move in the committees of jurisdiction. I happen to chair the Health Subcommittee of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. We have already had 2 weeks of hearings on health care reform, and we are going to continue doing this for the next few weeks and then begin the process of drafting legislation.

Now, I wanted to stress that this is an economic issue because some, not many, but some have said, well, the economy is in bad shape, Congress is so focused on trying to revive the economy, whether it involves the banks or it involves unemployment or involves the economic recovery package in an effort to try to stimulate the economy. Why are we talking about health care reform right now? Can't we delay? And the President and those who attended the health summit that President Obama held a couple of weeks ago, both Democrats and Republicans alike, as well as the business community and the health care providers, the doctors, the hospitals, but, interestingly enough, even some of the people who have opposed significant health care reform in the past were all united in saying that this is the time to do it, that we shouldn't wait. And the reason they say that it's important to do it now even with the recession is because

increasingly the health care system gobbles up, if you will, a larger and larger part of our gross national product. It goes up maybe 1 or 2 percent every so many years in terms of the amount of our gross national product that is dedicated to health care. And as those costs escalate, and they escalate exponentially sometimes, the health care inflation, if you will, increasingly makes the system unsustainable and, as a result, has a direct impact on our economy and drags down the economy in many ways. So health care reform is an economic issue. It needs to be done now. And a big factor in the reform is how can we slow the growth, keep down the inflation, take some of the savings that would be generated from cost efficiencies and use it to provide health insurance for everyone? Because the goal, obviously, is to provide health insurance for every American.

Now, in the context of this, the other important aspect that I think came out of the President's health care summit and that he continues to stress is the fact that we want to make these changes in the context of the existing system. We're not looking for radical changes in the way that we deliver health care or the way that people are covered by health insurance. We're not looking towards, for example, the Canadian model or the Western European models where they have a single payer system or perhaps where the government even runs a significant part of the system. What we want to do is build on what we have, and that really encompasses three areas, three general areas.

One is the existing public health programs like Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP for children, and there are many others like the Indian health care system or the system for the military. We want to make those better. We want to make those more efficient. We want to make sure that they have adequate coverage and that they don't result in too much money having been spent out of pocket by the average American. So that's the first part of this reform. What can be done to improve those existing government programs like Medicare?

The second aspect of this is what can we do to improve employer-sponsored health insurance? Most Americans still get their health insurance through their employer. The number has actually decreased significantly in the last 10 or 20 years as a percentage of Americans who get their health insurance through their employer, but it's still pretty big. It's still certainly a majority of the people who do receive health insurance through their employer. Well, the second part of our health care reform is to make sure that that system is shored up, in other words, so that employers continue to provide coverage for their employees, perhaps even get more employers to do that by giving them some kind of a tax break or a subsidy or looking at other ways of encouraging them to cover their employees.

And then the third aspect of this reform, if you lack at it in sort of a general overview, is to deal with those people that can't get insurance either through an existing government program like Medicare because they're not old enough or they're not kids or they are not poor enough for Medicaid; they can't get insurance through their employer because the employer doesn't provide it at all or because it's too prohibitive in terms of how much they have to contribute; so they try to get health insurance through the individual market, just going out on their own and finding an insurance plan individually through an insurance policy that might cover them, but when they do that, the cost is so overwhelming, they simply can't afford it. So for those individuals, what we have talked about, and, again, this is in discussion and we'd like to get bipartisan support; so I'm just talking about it in general terms, is that we have the government basically work with private health insurance companies to either negotiate a group policy in terms of lower premiums and having a standard policy that provides good coverage and then the government gives those options to individuals who haven't been able to get health insurance through the individual market.

□ 2115

So they now become part of a larger group plan that has some government regulation to bring costs down and significantly brings cost down, because now you are part of a group policy rather than going out in the individual marketplace.

We do that now with Federal employees. Some States, like Massachusetts, have actually implemented this type of system, they call it a health marketplace because you can basically go to the State and buy your insurance through the State government through these private insurance companies.

That's the broad outline of the kind of reform that we are looking at, but there are so many other aspects of it, many of which I would like to discuss further tonight, but I see that I am joined by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) who also happens to be a physician.

And if I could say, I didn't tell him I was going to say this, but I will say it that an important part of this health care reform is how to address the concerns of providers, health care professionals. Whether they are physicians, whether they are nurses, whether they are home health care aids, one of the biggest concerns we have right now is that we face a crisis with health care professionals.

For example, with doctors, we are having a hard time getting doctors to go into primary care. A lot of times my constituents will complain that even if they have good health insurance they can't find a primary care doctor, they even go to an emergency room sometimes because they can't find one. We know we have a nursing shortage.

So an important part of this, as the gentleman knows, is health care professionals. I don't know if that's what you want to discuss, but I couldn't help it, because I know that you are a physician.

I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. SNYDER. Thank you, Mr. PALLONE. Here we are in Washington DC, the Nation's Capital and there is a good number of people tonight celebrating St. Patrick's Day. And for us, for you and I, it has come down to wearing green ties on the floor of the House tonight talking about health care.

But I was in my office, and I heard you talking, and I appreciate all the work you have done through so many years now talking about this issue.

I just want to share two or three stories, if I might, and they are somewhat personal stories. As you know, 3 months ago my wife had three babies, three baby boys, Wyatt, Sullivan and Aubrey, in addition to our 2-year-old boy, Penn Snyder.

Then shortly after the delivery, about a week later, my wife ended up in the coronary care unit and had an extended hospitalization of about 11 days. So I remember going back home one day, running back from the hospital and talking to one of my neighbors. She said, "How is everything going?" And I said, "Well, two-thirds of our family of six is in the intensive care unit," because I had three babies in the neonatal care unit and my wife in the coronary care unit. I thought, okay, that's quite a burden for a family.

But my wife has insurance, she is a Methodist minister, she has good insurance through where she has worked. You and I are Federal employees, and we have insurance. We pay for our insurance like all Federal employees do. We have good insurance.

And one of the things I did not worry about during that period was who was going to pay the horrendous cost of the incredibly good care that we can get in this country. So all evening my wife has been sending me pictures of our four boys out on the lawn wearing green outfits with shamrocks on them, I guess just to brag about how nice the weather is in Arkansas this evening. But it brought home, here we are 3 months out and everybody is doing great and she is doing well.

Last week, I met with a young woman that I think if anyone in Congress would meet with, we would say she is just a gifted young woman, a medical student in her mid-20s, in her final year of medical school making decisions about where she is going to do her residency. We got to talking about some of the issues of medical students like they have got too much debt.

We are expecting them to pay for all this in medical school on their own. They are ending up with tremendous six-figure debt coming out of medical school. They don't get paid a lot as residents.

But in the course of the discussion it came out that while she was a medical student she was diagnosed with insulin-dependent diabetes and, of course, she is in a medical school. She knows where good resources are. She is at the best resource in Arkansas, except the health insurance that she has, by being a student, doesn't cover the cost of an insulin pump.

So she doesn't have it, and five shots a day doesn't give her the kind of control that we know helps prevent long-term problems. So here is this wonderful young woman, gifted young woman. She is our future, she is going to be taking care of you and I. And yet we, as a country, are not taking good care of her, even though she is in one of the medical centers of the world.

So I contrasted what happened with my family and me, and we do have health insurance, with what happens with a person who has health insurance, but it's just not the kind of coverage that they need. So I applaud you tonight for talking about this topic. I hope that we will make the kind of progress that you have been yearning for probably a couple of decades.

In the olden days, I was a family doctor before coming to this job here, and I always remind myself, people always come to me and say, oh, you are a doctor, you understand all this about health policy. I said, no, I used to do sprained ankles, nosebleeds and urinary tract infections. Health policy is that kind of mysterious nebulous world that many, many people don't understand. We are health care providers, we are patients, we are family, we are business people who try to go provide for our employees.

But we have this opportunity right now for all of us, whether we are providers or patients or business people or legislators or business people, to get up to speed on these topics. Because I think there is a real opportunity, with the mood of the country, with the international challenges we face from our economic competitors, that don't have the same kind of health care plan that we do and with the commitment of President Obama and his administration to do something.

I also think this really needs to be worked through with all components of our country. We talk about being across the aisle. Across the aisle is fine, but we need the business community and the providers and the hospitals and the insurance companies and patients and providers and all the advocacy groups and the research advocates to come together as best we can.

This is not going to be a 435-0 vote on whatever we do, but as best we can to listen to each other and move ahead. I think you gave an excellent outline on the kinds of issues that we need to be talking about.

But I believe that it is a very doable challenge that we have. I commend you for talking about this this evening.

Mr. PALLONE. I appreciate you coming down and talking about this, but

you made very good points that I just wanted to follow up on briefly.

First of all, I always stress that this is an economic issue, and that's why it's important to do it now. And it does relate to our recovery, if you will, from the recession, and coming back with a strengthened economy.

You mentioned that, because you said that, you know, it has to do with our ability to compete with other countries. You know, you remember at one time, I don't know if it was a year or two ago when some of auto companies—they were in better shape then than they are now—but all three, Ford, GM and Chrysler came down here a couple of years ago and said that we need health care reform, because the bottom line is it's hard for us to compete with foreign car manufacturers when we have most of the burden, or all of the burden, of health care costs on us, whereas that's not true if a car is made in Canada or if it's made in France or Italy or some other country where the government, you know, takes on the full responsibility—not that we are suggesting that here—but takes on the full responsibilities of those costs. I remember something like \$2,000 of every car that was produced in the country was reflected somehow in paying health care costs. So it is an economic issue.

The other thing that you pointed out is that even if you have health insurance, even if you have good health insurance, you are a big part of this debate. As the cost of health insurance continues to escalate, and health care costs in general continue to escalate way above inflation for everything else, it just becomes unaffordable ultimately for almost everyone. What they end up having is if they have a policy, there is a cutback in what's covered, or they have a higher copay, or the premium goes up, so that overall they are impacted.

I could just use a couple of stories, if I could, because I tend to be a little wonky sometimes and not tell the stories, but I will give you two stories. One is one of my employees who works for me back in New Jersey in my congressional office. He is part of the Federal employee program just like you and I.

He, on two occasions, could not find a primary doctor, a primary care physician, and ended up going to the emergency room for matters that were not of emergency room nature like a strep throat or something like that, which could have been handled by a visit to just a general practitioner.

Well, if someone who essentially has, you know, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cadillac plan in this case, can't see a general practitioner, who can? I mean, you wonder.

Then the other example, I remember going a couple of years ago to a union organizing effort—well, actually, it wasn't a union organizing effort, the employees were members of the union, the service employees, I think, at a

nursing home in my district. But they didn't have any health care coverage. In other words, the employer didn't provide that option, or, if he did, it was so prohibitive they couldn't afford it on their salary. So that was the irony here of people who spend their day and their job taking care of the health care needs of other people, but don't get health insurance themselves.

Now, I wasn't there, you know, to condemn the employer. I mean, I do think that he should have provided coverage. But, you know, the problem is for a lot of the employers now, it's just becoming so prohibitive. So there are so many stories like this, and I appreciate you bringing them up.

Mr. SNYDER. I have seen that myself as a family practice doctor. I never owned a clinic, I worked at other people's clinics and met some wonderful people. But health care providers are business people too. They have got to pay their employees. Some health care programs don't reimburse as well as they would like.

Some clinics are in places that they may end up giving free care or have a group of patients that are not able to pay so well, and so it's like any business. It can be a strain to find the money for health care. It's one of the challenges we have to have.

You mentioned the economic issue, the one of our ability to compete internationally. I think that's an important one.

I want to also mention the national security issue, and I don't think this one has gotten as much attention as it probably deserves. We have had a lot of discussions about, you know, mental health coverage for our young men and women that come back that we think needed their families. The reality is we are expecting the military health care plan, or military health care programs and the VA health care programs to solve a national problem, which is we do not have a good network of mental health care in any of our States, particularly rural areas. But it's just difficult to find the kinds of providers you want for that kind of care.

I want to go before they go over. We had an issue, when we first started mobilizing our troops to go to Iraq and Afghanistan. When we were mobilizing our reserve component forces, about one-third of our troops were on some kind of a medical hold.

Now, a lot of it was for dental, a lot of it could be taken care of reasonably quickly. But the reality was, we had a situation. These are men and women who have been going on their weekends once a month for their training.

They go every 2 weeks in the summer and yet they are showing up on mobilization orders. We are finding out that they were not, under military standards, medically fit to be mobilized. I think for a lot of us that were on the Armed Services Committee, that was a bit of a wake-up call too.

Because one of the issues for dental, although I was in medical and not den-

tal school, I actually think my teeth are part of the body and should not be divorced from the whole system, because we know it has tremendous ramifications on the overall health. Dental health is part of this overall picture.

And here we have a situation where you make a pretty good argument, our national security efforts were slowed down and more inefficient because of the kind of health care plans that we have.

Now, having good health insurance doesn't necessarily get everybody to the dentist, but I guarantee you, if you don't have good health insurance or dental insurance you are much more likely not to get preventive care. So that's an issue too.

Mr. PALLONE. Well, you raised, again, two very good issues that I would like to briefly comment on.

When I was talking before about the first part of this, which is to upgrade or make more efficient existing government programs like Medicare, SCHIP, Medicaid, you made me think of two aspects of that. One of them was with SCHIP, when we passed that bill that the President signed just a few weeks ago.

Not only did it upgrade, if you will, the children's health initiative by expanding the coverage to maybe another 4 or 5 million kids that were eligible under the SCHIP program, but we just didn't have the money with the States to pay for them.

But it also provided guaranteed dental coverage for the first time. In other words, before that bill was passed under the old SCHIP program, States had the option of covering dental care, but it wasn't required. Now it is.

And that is very important, because I remember going around to a lot of community health centers that just did not have dental coverage. And they would tell me that the biggest problem they had was providing dental coverage and getting dentists and how it affected kids.

We had the one instance with a young person in Maryland that actually died because his teeth weren't properly treated.

□ 2130

Mr. SNYDER. I took my little boy to the State Fair in Arkansas this year. Me and my little boys. Anyway, we're walking down the Midway and a couple were coming the other way in the crowd there, and he was a paraplegic in a wheelchair. And he stopped me. A very polite young man. And he obviously had had some significant health issues that he was dealing with—had been dealing with.

But he said, Man, is there anything you can do to help me with this. And he had an obvious need for dental work. But here's a man you would think would be in the system somehow—our system. But it just pointed out once again the inadequacy of the coverage in the country that can do the best job of solving his problem if we get him to the right person.

I want to bring up another issue, and I think it's one that you have had an interest in, too, and it's the issue of medical education. I think it's one that we will need to pay attention to as we go through the very important democratic process of looking at changing our health care system.

We need to be sure that we recognize at our hospitals that are involved in medical education that it is more inefficient and more expensive to teach while you're doing something. It is much quicker for a doctor, an experienced doctor, to come in and see the patient and get on to the next patient.

We have to recognize that there are additional costs for our teaching institutions. We make allowances for that through some of our government health care programs, probably not as well as we could or should, but it's certainly something that we need to watch to be sure that our teaching institutions, whether it's for nursing or doctors, that we recognize that there is an extra expense and inefficiency for them to provide the kind of quality teaching that takes additional time to sit down, not with the patient, but with the student.

Mr. PALLONE. You're absolutely right. I'm not suggesting that under the rubric of this reform this year that we are going to be able to address all these problems. But it always drives me crazy that more and more, and I don't know what the percentage is, but more and more of our health care professionals are trained overseas, either Americans that go overseas to medical school, or people that we bring here as immigrants, either nurses or doctors, because we are not graduating enough doctors or nurses here in the United States. I don't think that that trend can continue forever.

I give you an example. In my State of New Jersey, we have a University of Medicine in Dentistry that basically has three divisions: Newark, New Brunswick, and down in south Jersey in Stratford. I think total they graduate—I may be off a little—maybe 700, 800 physicians every year in the State of New Jersey. We have what, 8 million people, and we are graduating in our university system only 700 or 800 physicians per year?

Now, sure, a lot of New Jersey physicians go elsewhere for their education. But how can you justify that with a population of 8 million people? I just find more and more that we are relying on doctors and nurses that are trained overseas, and maybe it's a way for us to cut costs because we don't have to pay for their education or training, and the other countries do it.

Somehow it seems to me that that has got to be reversed. And maybe it's going to cost more money, but it just doesn't make sense to me.

Mr. SNYDER. It's particularly a poignant issue for you and me, Mr. PALLONE, as we get older, because a lot of our doctors are going to be retiring and we are expecting these generations

coming to take care of this big swell of the aging population as the Baby Boomers retire. So it's really important.

We are not going to get to where we want to go though in this process of doing health care reform and trying to find ways to save money, which we all want to do, if we don't recognize the cost of medical education.

Mr. PALLONE. The other thing that I really want to stress, and I haven't tonight, and you did touch upon it also, is new ways of doing things. I mean one of the things that President Obama did in this economic recovery package is that he actually put in pots of money that would be used to try to change the way we do things with health care.

So there's a pot of money for prevention programs, there's a pot of money for wellness programs. There are going to be pilot programs through grants for what we call comparative effectiveness, where you would actually look at certain operations or certain procedures or the use of certain drugs to determine whether they are even effective from an economic point of view. It may cost you more, but are you really getting anything for your money.

In addition to that, there's a major initiative—I think it's \$20 billion—for health information technology to upgrade doctors' and hospital offices so that records and other things are done electronically.

It's not just a question of covering everyone or reducing costs, but it's a question of doing things differently, because if a person can go to a general practitioner on a regular basis and get a checkup, then it's a preventive measure that prevents them being hospitalized and costing more money to the government or to the system later.

I mean these really haven't been played out much in this economic recovery package. Most of the talk has been about infrastructure and transportation and all that. There are major changes envisioned in the way we look at health care that the President has taken the leadership on, and the Congress, too, since we passed this bill.

Mr. SNYDER. I think this issue of the health information technology is really important. I notice that since the bill passed and the bill has been increasingly studied by people in the press and policymakers, that the health IT part, the health information technology piece of that bill, is starting to get a lot more attention.

There's been articles in the papers in the last couple of days. Wal-Mart is starting to look at doing some things.

The challenge—I mean, I'm somebody who most of my career was working for doctors who had small practices. And so there have been hospitals that have moved in this direction, large practices have moved in the direction of having a modern electronic medical record.

The problem has been that most doctors are in small offices of maybe one to five or six people. When the studies have been done about what does it take

for that kind of an office to move to an electronic medical record, the kind that most patients will want, it takes several months from the time they start until it's where they want to be.

It takes several months to get back to that same level of efficiency as seeing patients; the installation, learning the new ways of doing things, just figuring out how to do things.

Now everyone recognizes, even the ones who don't have it, that ultimately it makes it more efficient, it's safer for their patient, safer for them because no doctors want to make mistakes, nurses don't want to make mistakes. There's nothing worse than having to have a clerk sit there and Xeroxing medical records off because you have got a patient that you have had for 40 years that's moving across the country. You can do it electronically and it just moves things.

I think the money that is in this bill is really going to motivate both physicians, physicians' offices, the folks that manage their practices, but also those kinds of business people out there who say, Wait a minute. Here's a chance to move America forward, to invest in our health care infrastructure and, by the way, create some new jobs, make some money for my business, and do some good things for the American people in anticipation of these changes that I hope will come in our health care system as part of President Obama's proposals. So I think that is very exciting.

I was talking to one of my Republican doctor friends who voted against the bill. I certainly understand his reasons for voting against the economic recovery bill. But I said, I want to know, what do you think about the health information technology piece? He said, Oh, I like that. He might quibble with little details of it.

But we have liked the bill before, as doctors. The problem has been for the last several years is finding the money to pay for it, and the opportunity came along through the stimulus package. And I think this is a real opportunity to be a good investment in the change that our health care system needs. So I find that very exciting.

I want to say a point about prevention. And I recognize that I am probably in the minority on this view. My own view is that we ought to not sell preventive measures, which I think are so important, but I think we ought to not sell them or oversell them as ways to save dramatic amounts of money.

My own view is that prevention is a quality of life issue. If I can work with a patient when they're 25 years old to get them to stop smoking, I know, I know their quality of life is going to be better. I know there are diseases they are not going to get when they quit smoking or if they never start smoking because of good health education programs when they're 16, 17, and 18.

Now, where I have a problem with this prevention-saves-money argument is if somebody lives to be 90, I know at

some point they are going to need health care. But, God bless them, that is a good problem to have. I would so much rather deal with the infirmities of a 90-year old than the emphysema and COPD and heart disease of a 45-year old who smoked for 25 years, since they were 20.

So I have a little different view on that. I think you can find arguments on both sides. But I don't think that we should ever be defensive about saying, You know, some preventive things cost money. But the quality of life, if you can keep a family from losing a family member from cancer, if you can cut down the number of kids that go to emergency rooms because their parents smoke, or whatever it is, it's a quality of life issue, and that can really turn into additional years of life and the pursuit of happiness for that family in this great country.

So I'm pleased that prevention is part of this.

Mr. PALLONE. I appreciate what you're saying. I think that in fact when we had the health care summit, in maybe a little different context President Obama actually said, Look, we do need additional money if we're going to have health care reform and provide people quality health care and cover everyone, because a lot of that is going to have to be upfront.

In other words, if you talk about new ways of doing things, whether it's health information technology or preventive care, whatever, a lot of times you do need money upfront to pay for some of it. But then in the long run you do actually save money.

So I agree with you that the better quality care is ultimately more important. But it can over the long-term save money.

I use the example with one of my community health centers where I went. An incredible part of the building was devoted to keeping the medical records. I can't say exactly whether it was a third of the building or 25 percent of the building.

But I looked at where they stored all these handwritten or typed records because they didn't have them on a computer, and I said, Gee, if we could just get—I don't know how much it will cost so I'll pick a number—\$100,000 dollars to put all these records into the computer, you'd now have all this space available that you're not really utilizing right now.

So maybe upfront it's going to cost you \$100,000, but in the long run you're saving money.

I think you can use the primary care doctors. I use the example of my staff person who goes to the emergency room because he can't get a primary care physician. Primary care physicians say we don't have enough of a reimbursement rate. If you gave us a higher reimbursement rate under Medicare, there would be more primary care physicians.

I don't know if that is necessarily true, but assuming it's true, it is going

to cost you more money upfront. But, in the long run, if the person goes to the doctor when they have strep throat rather than going to the emergency room, do you save money. But it's oftentimes hard to actually put a dollar figure on how prevention saves you money.

Mr. SNYDER. This will be a true confession here tonight about a mistake that I made practicing medicine one time. It was about 15 years ago, I had a young boy, I think he was about 7 or 8, kind of a quiet boy, brought in by his grandmother. And he was there for a cold or something. I dealt with his cold or ear infection.

Then his grandmother started talking about some behavioral stuff he was having. We talked about it for a few minutes, and I didn't have much to offer.

It was like about 2 months later I was reading an article about Tourette's syndrome. And I thought, That's what that little boy had.

Well, the clinic I worked at had a wall about as big as the wall behind the Speaker here tonight that was all handwritten medical records. One of my nurses aids and I—we did it on Saturday because we were slow enough when we worked on Saturday, we could do this—we began systematically going through every one of those handwritten charts to see if we could find that little boy because I was going to call his family and say, Hey, I think I figured what you were talking about with this little boy. The reality is in Tourette's syndrome a lot of time they are underdiagnosed and, unfortunately for the family, it takes a while to sort it out sometimes.

We never did find that chart even though we systematically went through every handwritten chart. Well, if we had had a computer system we would have been able to pull up the names of appointments seen in the last period of time or probably could have pulled it up by approximate birth date.

There's so many tools that a good health information technology system gives you for the benefit of patients.

□ 2145

Efficiency of doctors, more prompt payment of doctors, less mistakes, but ultimately it is for the benefit of patients; and I think that is what you were talking about, looking ahead to doing things differently, doing things better. It is not just figuring out how to pay for the kind of care we are getting now, but it is better care in the future as part of this. And I think that is important.

Mr. PALLONE. I appreciate your input on all this. I know you said you haven't practiced for a while, but there is no question that having a physician who has had experience in a lot of this makes a difference in terms of relating what we have to do.

Mr. SNYDER. It is interesting, we have a good number of physicians in the House now.

Mr. PALLONE. It wasn't true when we first started, but it is now.

Mr. SNYDER. Physicians have figured out more and more, number one, that this Nation wants us to do something about health care. And I always tell my doctor friends, we can either do it with you, or we can do it to you. And most doctors have figured out they would like to have it done with them.

The other thing, though, is, and I have clearly seen this change in the time I have been in medicine, doctors have figured out that the programs that help people are the programs that help doctors. So they are here to help make those programs better. Now, we may have philosophical differences about how to get there and how to pay for it, but we recognize that there is a role for government in trying to make sure that whatever that number is, 47 million, 48 million people who don't have health insurance over a year's time actually are able to participate in this system that we call American health care.

I want to ask about another topic, Mr. PALLONE, medical research. We had a pretty good run there for a time under the leadership of Speaker Gingrich and President Clinton in terms of increasing the research dollars available for NIH. My own view of the last administration over the last 8 years has been very poor with regard to research, all kinds of research. There are, and I am talking now specifically about medical research, medical research funds in a variety of different budgets, from the military budget, veterans budget, NIH, agriculture budget, Department of Agriculture, they have research. Well, this is another place that is part of the kind of quality care we want for all of us. We need to be investing in that kind of research, because the reality is medical jobs are good jobs.

In fact, when you look at the numbers, as people have been losing jobs, the thing that stands out the most in terms of who is gaining right now is health care. It is kind of counter-cyclical. There are medical jobs out there that don't get filled that people will look at. Now, we need to do I think a better job of helping nursing home aides get paid and all. But there is a tremendous opportunity to create the kind of technology and new jobs and new treatments that this country can be selling all over the world, and we need to be the leaders in a lot of these things.

I think the whole issue of stem cells has gotten a lot of attention. Regardless of where you come down philosophically on the issue of stem-cell research, there is a ton of things out there that would benefit from more research dollars, and it has to be part of this picture, too. You mentioned the comparative effectiveness. That is probably too fancy a name. It kind of got bad-mouthed in some of the media when that bill came out. The reality is, why wouldn't we want to see what

works the best for the least amount of cost? We would do that as a family.

If I go in to my doctor and he said, here is my prescription, it is \$180. And I say, well, is there anything better? Oh, yeah, there is a generic. It is like \$14. Why don't I take the generic for \$14? I mean, why not go for something that would work as well, perhaps even better, but be dramatically less expensive? I mean, we all are responsible as a country for these health care plans and making sure we pay for things. And somehow the idea that we would actually want to pay attention to what things cost and what works and what doesn't work, and are we prescribing things that we don't really need? I mean, that is just common sense, and I think families want that. They don't want us to prescribe things that are not effective or there could be something cheaper that would work just as well. So I think that is part of this picture.

Maybe I am making the universe bigger than it needs to as we are talking about health care and health care coverage, but it is all part of this investment in our future. And medical researchers will do better with a health information technology system. Those people who are responsible for paying the bills, who are processing claims will do better if that health IT system is more efficient. All this stuff builds on each other. Ultimately, we want to lead to better coverage for the best price that we can give.

Mr. PALLONE. You make such a good opinion. And, again, we are always talking about the budget. So much of the discussion here is about the spending in the economic recovery package or the spending in the budget. The fact of the matter is that the economic recovery package had a significant amount of money for medical research at NIH and at other institutions, and the President's budget also significantly increases funding for medical research. And I remember that, actually—and I am not trying to be that partisan tonight. But some of the Republicans did actually criticize the economic recovery package because it had that medical research money in it, because they said, well, how is that a stimulus?

The fact of the matter is, it is a tremendous stimulus; because when you give money to medical research, it is always matched either by the university or by private sources of funding, pharmaceuticals, whatever. And if you look at what it generates, it generates a lot more. For every one job that is generated through the public money, there are two or three or more that are generated through the private money, and it is actually a tremendous stimulus. So it makes sense to include it in an economic recovery package.

The fact of the matter is that in the beginning of President Bush's administration, he actually did increase funding significantly for NIH and medical research, but then gradually lessened

and lessened it to the point where it was an actual cut. And I got particularly annoyed. I probably shouldn't even mention it, but I am going to, because I heard on one of the talk shows that they were picking out pieces of the research in the economic recovery package and criticizing it. Like, I think there was money for research on venereal disease and somebody was saying on one of the talk shows, why are we spending money on that? There is an epidemic in some of these venereal diseases and they have become resistant to a lot of the drugs and things that have been traditionally used. So why not spend money on research?

You can pick these things apart, but the bottom line is that if you have problems and you are trying to address the diseases, you have got to spend some money on research. And the few Federal dollars capture private and other money and actually do a lot towards not only finding a cure but creating jobs.

Mr. SNYDER. We also have learned in a very difficult way for a lot of American families the challenges of what happens to our men and women in uniform overseas with the traumatic brain injury and some of the kinds of injuries that have occurred. And what happens in every war is, sadly, we have opportunities to learn new things and get better at treating these. And there are some real opportunities of helping these families in terms of looking at traumatic brain injury and how we respond to them.

Looking over the long run, we are just a few years into this thing, what impact will this have on their lives 10 years and 20 years and 30 years and 40 years from now? And what opportunities will there be for them 10 and 20 and 30 and 40 years from now depending on what we do in terms of investing in research? And we have had these discussions before, both in the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans Services Committee. There are research projects out there that can be funded if we have adequate funding for them. And that is not part of civilian health care for them; that is part of our responsibility as a government to be sure that we adequately fund medical research. And a lot of it is going to be done in our civilian facilities, also, whether it is medical schools or veterans hospitals. The research needs to go on, and it needs to be well funded.

Mr. PALLONE. I wanted to mention one last thing, if I could, because I don't know how much time we have left.

But when you were talking about doctors, when we had the health care summit with the President a couple weeks ago, there were many things that struck me, but one thing that struck me was there were so many groups there represented demanding health care reform now that 15 years ago, whenever it was that President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton came up with their health care initiative, and of

course it failed. But many of the groups that opposed the initiative then were present at the summit saying we have to do something. And I don't know that the doctors were in that category, but all the doctor groups were represented at the summit and they were all saying we have got to do this, we have got to do this now. The trade group from the health insurance companies, which opposed and actually ran the ads against the Clinton plan 15 years ago were there saying, we are here because we want to participate and we need health care reform. The small business representatives, the National Federation of Independent Businesses were there and said the same thing: We were against the Clinton reform 15 years ago. We are for what you are saying now, because we know that something has to be done.

Mr. SNYDER. If I might intervene for a minute. I think it is perfectly consistent for somebody to have been opposed to the plan in 1993 and be for something now. There is a broad spectrum of ideas out there. I am hoping that, and I think President Clinton would acknowledge, that we have learned from that experience 15 years ago, 16 years ago.

So I think that is a very important point you make, because we don't know what the ultimate product is going to be; but, hopefully, it is going to be something that will be shaped so you won't have somebody out there doing a huge media bite trying to kill a plan when the country is trying to come together to make something work. And I am not sure if everybody will be happy, but I am hoping that almost everybody can live with the ultimate result, because we all come from different perspectives.

Mr. PALLONE. I think the other difference is that we are trying to make this bipartisan. We are trying to have it come from the House and the Senate. In other words, we are not actually getting something from the Obama administration and saying, this is what we want you to do, this is what we want you to pay us. We will give you some principles, but we want this thrashed out in the House, in the Senate, with Democrats and with Republicans, going through the committees and all that.

And I did want to mention, because I am not sure if I did, that we are really determined to do this this year. I mean, the timetable essentially would be that sometime between now and the August recess that we would actually pass bills that would come to the floor of the House and come to the floor of the Senate, and then in September, October, in the fall we would try to work out the differences between the House and the Senate and send something to the President by the end of the year. I know it sounds ambitious, but I am optimistic.

I really think, when I talk to Members, we had a hearing today and our ranking member, the Republican, Mr.

BARTON from Texas, said: I want you to know that I want this done, and I am going to participate in this and the Republicans are going to participate in this. So the atmosphere is very good in terms of trying to work out something that can pass.

Mr. SNYDER. May I close out my contribution here this evening. I want to tell you another story. And I appreciate your talking about this evening.

I began by talking about my four little boys who are age 3 months, three of them are 3 months and one is 2 years old, and how much we benefited not only from the quality of health care we had but also from the quality insurance plans that my wife and I had.

Over the weekend, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN had an event in Little Rock, and Vice President BIDEN was there and her family was there and there were a lot of people there. I was looking for her grandmother-in-law. Her grandmother-in-law, her husband's grandmother, is Mrs. Ruth Lincoln. Mrs. Ruth Lincoln is 111 years old. She is delightful. And I thought, well, surely she would be here. Well, she had fallen about a month ago and broke a bone I think in her pelvis. And I thought about that and felt badly about that, and then I thought later, well, of course I assumed she is going to bounce back from that, get healed up, and I am going to see her again. On her birthday she always does something special like cross the Arkansas River on a bridge. She always does a very special thing. And when you talk to her, she talks about how she loves growing old. She has loved growing old at age 111. And I think in a way that is what we aspire to through this health care reform. We want everyone to say, whether they are young with young children who benefit from our health care system, or people who go through the very frail years, that throughout they can say that I have loved growing old. Now, maybe we won't live to be 111, but if we all do this right, we will increase the chances of more people being able to have those kinds of long, long years.

I applaud you once again for spending this time this evening.

Mr. PALLONE. I think I am going to end with that, because I like that ending of our hour this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HIDDEN TAXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

□ 2200

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House and talk about the economic crisis that our country is facing and also to go through and walk through some of the things that got us here, because as you talk to Americans all around

the country, they are frustrated. They realize the problems that we are facing in our economy. But then they start to see a lot of these proposals that are coming out of Washington, and they don't see how any of these relate to the problems that we are facing today and how they are going to get our economy and our country back on track.

I have got to say that there are a lot of us here that share that same frustration and share that same feeling that Washington still doesn't get the message of what is happening out there in the country and what it is going to take to get the economy back on track.

I think what really underscored it in the last few weeks was when the President released his budget, which really shows the first outline of which direction President Obama wants to take our country and how he plans on dealing with these problems that our country faces. I think what most people have now realized is that the President's budget spends too much money. It taxes too much, and it leaves too much debt behind for our children and grandchildren.

Really, if you look at that in a theme, it really underscores how it misses the point of what is happening out there in the country, the fact that people all across the Nation are tightening their belts. They realize that there are tough economic times out there, and they are dealing with it in each individual family. You hear a lot about the problems with the banking industry. And we will talk a little bit about the banking industry and really how that problem still has not been addressed by this President or by his budget director or by his Treasury Secretary and the fact that a lot of the problems facing our economy still go back to a tightened credit market and a failure in the banking system that we can address and there are ways to address it. And we will talk about that too.

But unfortunately, rather than focusing on those areas, those very narrow areas that can get our economy back on track and get small businesses creating jobs again—the ability is there for us to do that—unfortunately, the budget that the President submitted goes in the opposite direction. At that point, a lot of us who really care about this country and really feel that we have got to make sure we chart the right course have been standing up and saying that there is a better way to do this.

Some people might want to just criticize people who don't just go along and blindly vote “yes.” And we have seen so many bad policies coming from people who are just blindly voting for the next thing that is laid on this floor here in the House of Representatives. Yet, there is no accountability and there are no actual benchmarks to get us to where we need to be. There is a better way. And people know this is the greatest country, with all of our flaws, the greatest country in the his-

tory of the world. And we know we can get to a better place. Yet, as we stand here tonight, we wonder why we do this. Why do we fight to make this a better country? A lot of it is because we want to leave behind a better place than we have today.

Tonight is a special night because tonight is my daughter's second birthday. I'm here in Washington, and unfortunately, I cannot be with her, and I want to say “happy birthday” to Madison. But I want to be here to fight to make it a better country so that my daughter, and everybody else's daughter and son, has a better place, that they can still pursue that American Dream, that dream that makes people come here from all across the world, that they would give up everything to go beneath the Statute of Liberty and look up and see what that represents.

That vision of America is still out there. And it is still in the hearts of people all across this country. But I think for too many people, they don't see that same vision, that same spirit here in this Chamber dealing with these problems. We have been here for 3 days now as we have come back from the break, and all that has been brought up by the Speaker has been votes on post offices and ceremonial resolutions. People want us to be here dealing with these tough issues. People want us to be here tonight, late at night and going into the midnight hour dealing with these tough issues, because they know we can get through this. And they know there is a better way. And that is what we are going to be talking about tonight.

We have some other people that are going to talk with us. But first, I want to talk about some other parts of the President's budget that have caused so much concern for people across the country. I want to talk about how much money it spends. This budget gives a record deficit of \$1.7 trillion in deficit spending this year. It is an amount that is unseen in past budgets, an amount that none of us think is a tolerable level. This is all money we don't have, money that will be left to our children and grandchildren to have to pay off. But if they also look—and this is what is sending shock waves throughout the rest of this country now—as people start to read the fine print, they are looking at these tax increases. These are tax increases that President Obama submitted in his own budget. And if you look here, he is projecting to raise \$1.4 trillion in new taxes at a time when our economy is in such disarray. We are in a recession, possibly heading toward a depression, because of some of the decisions being made here. We have got the ability to stop that from happening. But you surely don't fix tough economic times by adding \$1.4 trillion in new taxes on to the backs of hardworking people, small businesses.

Look at these tax increases, \$636 billion would fall on to the backs of small businesses in our country, the people

who create 70 percent of the jobs in our country. Then look at the cap-and-trade legislation. This is a tax on energy. There is actually an energy tax in the President's budget. And while he said here on this floor just a few weeks ago that 95 percent of the people in this country would not be paying a dime in new taxes, what they failed to mention was the next day when he submitted his budget, he had a \$646 billion energy tax which is paid for not by those rich people in the top 2 percent, but paid for by every family out there who actually uses energy. And that is going to be roughly a \$1,300 tax on everybody who uses power.

So we have laid out a little bit of a framework of what is in this President's budget, what causes us concern and how there is a better way. With that I want to introduce my friend from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) to also share some of his thoughts on this.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank my friend from Louisiana for hosting this hour tonight and giving us a time to come talk to each other and the American people to give them an idea and maybe be able to connect some of the dots of what has been going on in this Chamber for the last 50-plus days of the new administration that we have.

What we have seen in the gentleman's chart where it talks about small business and investors, \$636 billion in tax increases on small business. And with that, a small business, a Subchapter S, if they make over \$250,000—and if you're in business, you need to make that so you can reinvest in your company—they are taxed as individuals. So, this is a big tax increase. And the interesting part is that yesterday, President Obama came out with a \$15 billion small business loan program which, if my figures are correct, is about 2.5 percent of the amount that he is going to increase the taxes on small business. Then the other startling thing when we started looking at this \$15 billion—and I want to commend the President for doing the \$15 billion and trying to help small businesses after he is burying them in this additional tax burden—but only 5 percent of the small businesses, only 5 percent of the small businesses get their loans from the SBA. So it means the other 95 percent get their loans from their community banks, their local banks.

As the gentleman from Louisiana might remember, one of the reasons that this huge stimulus package or bank bailout bill, there has been so many of them I get confused, but one of the reasons the bank bailout bill was done was to unfreeze the credit market. Well, within 2 days after the bill passed in both Chambers, then-Secretary Paulson took a different track and decided to bail out some of these investment houses on Wall Street. And we can see how that has turned out. But credit was never unfrozen. And so these small businesses are hurting because their community banks can't

loan them the money that it takes to make their payroll or do new investment or really just keep their business running.

So what we see is that now, all of a sudden, the government is saying, well, we will make this loan available to you through the SBA. What that does is, it says, we will decide who gets the loans.

In other words, it gives the government the ability to pick the winners and losers of who is going to be able to get these government-backed small business loans. It takes the ability away from these community banks. They don't have the money to lend as a result of the mark-to-market rules and the other rules that have come down because of the catastrophe that we have had on Wall Street. Their assets, their loanable product and their cash reserves have gone down because of the mark-to-market rules. And so they don't have the money to loan to these small businesses in their own community.

If you have a nail shop or a barber shop or an auto repair facility, that community banker knows that community and your ability to repay that loan better than anybody else. But now you're going to have to jump through all the hoops and the red tape that the government has in trying to get an SBA loan. And they will be the ones to pick the winners and losers, rather than the people in the community itself.

So I think you have to look at the big picture of what all of this means. We look at the charitable contributions. If you make over \$250,000 a year, which these small business guys will, you can only deduct your charitable contributions or your home mortgage up to 28 percent of your taxable income. Well, what does that mean? Well, the government said, well, the reason we are doing that is because we had money for the charities in the stimulus bill. So what happens? Now, the government is picking the winners and the losers in the charity business. They are not wanting us to be able to take our money and do the things that we normally did with it. We gave to the United Way or to our church or to an overseas ministry or wherever it was, where we wanted our money to go. Now the government is saying, "no, we are going to limit your ability to do that. We will take care of that for you. We will take your tax dollars and we will reward and give to the charities that we want to give to."

So you can see the gentleman from Louisiana has greatly explained the cap-and-trade which is going to be a tax on everybody that uses energy. I don't think the American people are going to continue to buy that 95 percent of the people are not going to have a tax increase. That is a misrepresentation. Because if we do the cap-and-trade, everybody that uses energy—and as far as I know, everybody in this country uses some sort of energy—is going to pay more for that energy. That is a direct tax increase.

So I want to thank the gentleman for hosting this Special Order. And I will sit down now and let some of your other friends and my friends get up and talk and continue the conversation.

Mr. SCALISE. Reclaiming my time. Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for talking on that point about that cap-and-trade tax. And interestingly, about 1 year ago, Peter Orszag was the head of the Office of Management and Budget. He is actually now the President's budget director. The person who today is the President's budget director said that this tax, this energy tax, while decreasing emissions would also impose costs on the economy. Much of those costs will be passed along to the consumers in the form of higher prices for energy and energy-intensive goods.

So what the President's own budget director said was, this energy tax that he has proposed in his budget will actually increase the cost of energy for every American family in this country. But it also will increase the cost of every energy-intensive good, meaning any time you go to fill up your tank at the gas station, you're going to be paying more in energy taxes. Any time you go and buy goods at the grocery store you will pay more because those products you buy, the food you buy, the can of soup you buy, they are trucked in from somewhere or it was shipped in on rail. All of those have costs. And those costs, as the President's budget director said, will be passed on to the consumer.

In fact, we have got estimates that right here, according to an analysis by MIT researchers, the total energy bill for the average American household will increase by up to \$3,128 per year based on Congressional Budget Office testimony. So this energy tax right here, this \$646 billion that is in the President's budget, we are not talking about some bill that somebody filed that is never going to see the light of day. This has already been filed just 2 weeks ago in the President's budget, a day after he said here on this House floor that no American family that makes less than \$250,000 will pay a dime. And the key was a dime. And I guess he was right. He won't pay a dime. According to the Congressional Budget Office, you will pay \$3,128 in new energy taxes.

And all of this is coming at a time when our economy is in such a troubled period. We are in a recession. We are trying to get out. And you surely don't get out by throwing \$1.4 trillion of new taxes on to the backs of every small business and every consumer of energy, every family in America. We especially want to talk about freeing up these credit markets and getting our banking system working, because that is the problem that got us here in the first place. Some people want to say that there are no alternatives on the table, and there is one way, or "my way or the highway," and it is just their approach or nobody else's. And

maybe they don't want to listen to other opinions. And that is unfortunate.

□ 2215

We live in a democracy, and that means that we exchange ideas and not everybody has a monopoly on great ideas. In fact, with 435 people in this body, you will get some good ideas, and some bad ideas too. I think some of them we have just talked about. But there are good ideas on the table.

One idea still on the table, going back to the first financial bailout, H.R. 7223, this is a bill that was filed, almost a hundred-page bill. I was a cosponsor of this bill. This was our alternative bill to the first financial bailout, about 6 months ago, when that first \$700 billion bailout passed which many of us said was the wrong approach to fixing the financial crisis in our country. There was definitely a financial crisis. There still is a financial crisis.

The problem is now the taxpayers are on the hook for \$700 billion because the approach they used was to just throw taxpayer money at the problem and not go to the root and say why are banks not lending to banks? Why is it that people who have good credit ratings are having trouble getting loans?

So what we did was we put an alternative on the table. It is kind of an interesting point now that we look at the problems going on with AIG and the fact that we see these egregious bonuses being paid to people, who in many cases were people who ran their company into the ground. The folks over at AIG who were getting \$165 million in bonuses, they actually got \$173 billion in taxpayer-funded bailouts from that financial bailout. In fact, they were the very people, many of these, who ran that company into the ground.

So why is that a bad approach? I think the American public that is looking at this knows it is a bad approach. They are offended that their tax dollars, their hard-earned tax dollars and money that we don't have, money that our children and grandchildren are going to have to pay, are going to give executives of a failed company up to \$6.5 million each in bonuses during these tough times.

So this bill that we filed that is still out there, this is still a solid alternative that I would suggest would help address and fix our economic problems, H.R. 7223, from the 110th Congress.

What it did basically was set up a workout, not a bailout. It allowed and made these companies who ran their companies into the groundwork, actually go and work themselves out by going in and establishing a price for mortgage-backed securities, which is the problem which started all of this. A lot of the problems with subprime mortgages and then Fannie and Freddie giving loans to people who didn't have the ability to pay, all those things that still have not been reformed that need to be reformed, this

bill actually addressed that problem, but it went one step further.

My friend from Georgia talked about the mark-to-market accounting rule. Our bill addresses that and suspends it. There is a rule out there, it is a financial accounting rule, that many bank executives will tell you is currently forcing a lot of these mortgaged-backed securities to be valued at zero dollars, even though they have some value. Nobody knows what the value is today. But because the value is unknown, they have to literally mark them down to almost zero which means they have no ability to loan to anybody. By suspending that accounting rule alone, you would free up liquidity in the markets.

One other change we were going to make that still is on the table today, it is still in this proposal and it is called repatriation.

Back in 2005, Congress actually for 1 year lowered the capital gains rates for U.S. companies who have foreign profits. Believe it or not, there are still U.S. companies that are making profits. And some of them work and have businesses in other countries. Unfortunately, not enough of them bring those profits back to America to help the American economy. They leave them in foreign countries because they are taxed. Today, they are taxed on bringing that money back.

For 1 year they tried suspending that tax. They lowered it from 35 percent down to 5 percent. You know what happened, \$300 billion of money came into our economy because those U.S. companies said we want to bring that money back and help the U.S. economy because the Federal Government is not going to tax us at such a high rate.

That worked so well, you know what happened when the Democrats took control of Congress in 2006, they revoked that law. So the tax went back up, and you know what happened. Because the tax went up, those profits from those U.S. companies went back overseas. And they are still sitting in foreign banks helping foreign countries. But they could be here helping our country. Not taxpayer money, \$300 billion by that one change could be here helping our country get back on track.

These are just a few examples of what is in the alternative bill that was filed over 6 months ago that is still an alternative and we still offer up to the President. If President Obama really wants to get serious about addressing the banking problem, this is one way to go, to not put taxpayers on the hook, but actually use the markets and use the people that created this mess, and then use some smart changes that have been proven over time to put real liquidity back in the marketplace.

I am joined by one of our bright new shining stars, a freshman Member from Utah, Mr. CHAFFETZ.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I thank the good Member for allowing me to join in this conversation because I think the Amer-

ican people are so frustrated. I am so frustrated. Here we have the greatest opportunity, the greatest country on the face of the planet, and yet we see this excessive spending and these taxes that will continue to grow and take away our liberty and freedom and ability to grow as families and as people. And that borrows so much.

I think inherently the American people know that we can no longer afford to run this country on a credit card. I was touched by the mention of your daughter, Madison, and being 2 years old.

As a father, I have three kids at home, and one of the hardest things about being in the House of Representatives is being away from your family at night. To do the work and argue about the issues of the day is a great privilege, but it is so hard to be away from that family. And you look into the eyes of your daughter or of your son, or you have a loved one who has maybe lost a job, or a friend who has lost a job or has a business that is struggling. I have people in my own community who had home building businesses, and they have literally fallen apart.

The question is how are we going to solve these problems? How are we going to move this country forward? There are some on the Democrat side of the aisle who will argue that only government can solve these problems. It is not only government. In fact, I would argue it is only the American people that will actually go forward and solve and create and build this country back up to where it should be, as the economic and military leader in the world. That is done through entrepreneurs. It is done through building businesses.

I was so satisfied. Actually, I felt a bit of vindication when I saw the President stand up and make the case that I have been making for a long, long time: that small businesses are the ones that are going to build jobs in this country, that small businesses are the drivers of this economy.

And yet, that was the same argument that I used to say look, the trillions of dollars that are going to be set aside for stimulus and bailouts and all of that, isn't going to drive our economy forward. The last stimulus bill that we had, the Republicans in the House of Representatives united. Not one of them voted in favor of it. That was because it expanded 106 Federal programs, 33 new programs and a whole host of other programs, that got money sprinkled across it, but it did nothing for the Madisons of the world, for my son, Max, and Ellis and Kate, and for Burtis Bills, the mayor of Payson, and even my brother's father-in-law, Bob Johnson of Topeka, Kansas, who owns a transmission shop. I had to talk to these people and look them in the eye and convey to them that we weren't doing anything to help them. We were growing government, we weren't growing jobs. We were building all-time,

record-high debt, debt that ultimately has to be paid.

So I look at what we are doing in this government, the amount of spending and the amount of taxes and the amount of borrowing, and say it is just too much. If we are truly going to grow the United States of America, it is going to be that entrepreneur. It is going to be that small business owner that is going to propel this country forward.

Mr. SCALISE. I appreciate the passion and the examples that my friend from Utah gives of real people out there in this country and the things that they are dealing with. And, of course, the way that they deal with it is a lot different than unfortunately the way it is not being dealt with here in Washington. And especially when we know there are proven ways to address these problems.

A lot of us kind of get a little irritated when we hear people complaining that the Republicans were in power and they did this and that so that makes it okay to do what they are doing today.

If we talk about spending, and let's talk about the spending that has gone on. There is a lot of blame that can go around. I sure don't support the deficit spending that has been going on, but what we are seeing today, the deficit spending we are seeing today is historic. It is record levels. While some of our friends may want to criticize spending that had been done in the past, the spending that is going on today makes people in the past look like amateurs on spending. It is levels we have never seen before.

Here is a chart that shows deficits over the last 4 years, and it is \$400 billion, trickling down below \$200 billion in 2007, definitely going in the right direction. We want to have surpluses and we want to run a balanced budget. I am a cosponsor of a bill to balance the Federal budget. We should require a balanced budget, but at least the direction was trending downward. And then we see the 2010 budget that was just submitted goes to \$1.7 trillion in deficit spending in 1 year alone. And those record numbers continue on for years. In fact, the first 4 years of the President's budget would be over a 50 percent increase in the national debt.

In those 4 years combined with every budget since President George Washington, so if you take George Washington and go through President Bush, and in just 4 years, President Obama will add 50 percent to the national debt because of this level of spending. This is again money our children and our grandchildren will have to inherit. In fact, the budget, that spending bill, and some people called it a stimulus bill that passed just a few weeks ago, the \$800 billion spending bill that ended up spending billions of dollars on a high-speed rail from California to Las Vegas, and research for a field mouse, and massive growth of government, that one bill alone added over \$3,000 in new national debt, \$3,000 for every man, woman and child in this country.

People say what did my State get for it? What is my community going to get for it? I think as they look, they will realize over the next few months, as they see more of these egregious spending programs that came out of that bill, they are going to realize that they didn't get \$3,000 worth out of that bill.

That is why when we talk about the entrepreneurial spirit, and I think my friend from Texas has some good insights on that, and great entrepreneurs and the fact that government can encourage a way out of this problem, but government spending cannot solve this problem. We can look back to the Great Depression, and we will talk about that and the mistakes made during the Great Depression.

Mr. CARTER. I would like to point out something that seems to be a mistake that is made by a lot of people.

The 2008 budget which would be argued here on the floor of the House was Bush's budget. The reality of spending, we up here, this House of Representatives has responsibilities as well as rights. And the real world is the President proposes a budget, but the Congress adopts the budget. It is the Congress's budget when we get through with it.

So the 2008 budget that shows the increase over 2007 fairly substantially is the Congress's budget. You are not seeing George Bush's budget, you are seeing the Democrat-controlled Congress's budget in 2008.

Now their President has proposed, the Democratic Party's President has proposed a 2009 budget that goes off the charts. It is kind of interesting because we hear, "I will reduce the budget by 50 percent." So let's see, if you raise the budget 300 percent and you reduce it 150 percent, you have reduced it 50 percent. We are still 150 percent over where you were.

□ 2230

And that chart exactly shows what we're talking about. If you look at those lines, we're taking the President at his word, as we go all the way down here, what is that last one? 2018?

Mr. SCALISE. If I can reclaim my time for a moment, and then I will yield back to my friend from Texas. What you're talking about right here in 2008, and this is when the Democratic-controlled Congress ramped up that spending. But even here, it is below \$600 billion. And then in the first year of President Obama's budget, it goes up to \$1.7 trillion in deficits. This isn't the size of the budget—the budget is over \$3.5 trillion—this is just the size of the deficit. And then if you look, by the fourth year of the President's budget, it is still roughly \$600 billion. So it's higher in his fourth year than the first budget that he inherited.

And so, while he would say he is reducing it by 50 percent, it is actually larger than the first budget that he inherited because his first budget adds over \$1.7 trillion in deficit spending.

And I will yield back.

Mr. CARTER. That's right. That is my whole point. That chart clearly shows you that if your criticism was of the Bush administration for deficit spending—which we heard a lot of noise about that—then if you look at those red columns, none of those drops down to even equal with the largest Republican-led Congress deficit. Okay. They are almost double the Republican-led Congress' deficit all the way to the end of your chart.

But yes, they do reduce that big line by more than 50 percent. If you want to talk about voodoo chart drawing, that's voodoo chart drawing. That's saying, if I jack it up to \$3.6 trillion, then, yes, I can drop this thing big time down the road, but you are still way over what you were dealing with back in 2004. So this whole concept of trying to smoke and mirrors the world, it's time to stop all that.

There is a young man I was just talking to out in the hall who has a little business, and he wants to go out and expand his little business. And his world is this, that he looks at it, he gets taxed as ordinary income even though he's a small business, and he says to himself, why should I stick my neck out for another couple hundred thousand dollars in debt to try to expand my business when all I'm going to do is get myself up into a tax bracket that I'm going to be going downhill?

So, that's exactly the example. Or a young man I talked to, walked up to me at an event in Killeen, Texas, and he said, you know, my wife and I started a business 5 years ago. He said, we have taken this idea up to a business that employs 40 people. We are now at a point where we have to make a decision; do we expand our business by borrowing about a half a million dollars, indebting ourselves as a couple, and have the potential to maybe employ 80 people—which, gosh, isn't that what we want? Isn't that what we're talking about, creating jobs? He said, but we look at it, and we see what is coming down with this cap-and-trade and the cost that that's going to put on me, when we see what's coming down on the tax increase for people earning over \$250,000, and we're concerned that will put such a burden upon us that we might actually lose this business. So now we're looking at it and saying, maybe we should shore up what we've got and lay off a few people to be sound in hopes that somebody will get sanity back in the taxing of our people in this country. And let's hold on until logic comes back into the world.

That's not the way we want to cause people to expand and have a better life. And that's exactly what we're talking about with this budget that's proposed by the President and looks like is overwhelmingly going to be adopted by the majority in this House.

We've got real issues here that the American people have to think about. Because with your 2-year-old daughter—and I wish her a happy birthday—that's where you should be focusing all

your attention. And I should be focusing all my attention on what we're leaving—not just to her little generation at 2 years old that's going to grow up in this country, but the children that she is going to have and the children they are going to have. If we keep going down the road that we're going down right now with the kind of unbelievable spending that has gone on in the first 50 some-odd days of Obama's first term as President of the United States, if this keeps up, how will our descendants ever pay this back?

Mr. SCALISE. Reclaiming my time, the gentleman from Texas makes some wonderful points. And I appreciate your concern for what happens when Madison, my daughter, grows up and what kind of country she is going to be left with and what kind of debt she is going to inherit. And I think when the American people across the country look at this—and they've started to look at it in, I think, a very close way. And what they're telling me when I go back home, and those of us that have gone throughout the country to our districts, they're telling us that this budget spends too much and it taxes too much. And it borrows too much from future generations at the expense of our ability to get our economy back on track to help those small businesses.

And then they look and they say, well, what are all of these deficits? What is all of this spending going toward? And what they see, they see that first stimulus bill, they look at this TARP money, they look at what's happening with that TARP money and AIG and companies that are getting this money. In some cases, you can't even find out what they did with the money. And then when you find out what they did, it makes you even more angry because you see they are giving it in bonuses to people who helped run those companies into the ground. These are people who truly would be unemployed because they bankrupted their own companies, and today the only reason they have a job is because of these Federal bailouts of these companies. And then they are using that money—not to make loans, but something even more egregious. And as angered as we are hearing about these bonuses that they're paying—\$160 million in bonuses that AIG paid to its executives—we also found out today that AIG used \$26 billion of that taxpayer money to give to French and German banks—not American banks, to help our American banking system, but \$26 billion of that TARP money went to German and French banks, which might be helping their economies in those countries, but it sure isn't helping America. So for those of us who voted against those bailouts, saying I told you so doesn't help anybody, but saying this madness has to end.

And people are looking at this. And then they are seeing the budget that's proposed. And they're seeing these huge spikes in deficit spending and this

huge amount of new government socializing of different systems and forms of our economy, and it's scaring people. Because when you look at the stock market, the stock market is an indication not just of what's happening to those individual companies, but of consumer confidence. In fact, since this President took office in January, the stock market is down about 25 percent. That means 401(k)s out there, families who are investing in those markets, their retirement savings are down over 25 percent just since January 20. We're not talking about something that has been going on for over a year now, we're talking about something that is maybe 2 months in the making, a 25 percent decrease because people are seeing these plans—these spending plans, these tax plans, this massive borrowing—and they are realizing somebody has to pay for this.

And what are we doing with this money? And you can't even go find it. It's not helping our country get back on track; because, again, if you go back to the Great Depression—and we said we are going to talk about this a little bit—during the Great Depression in the 1930s, it wasn't because they didn't spend enough money. They actually spent money for years and years and the depression stayed as bad as it was. For over 8 years they spent money. And there is an old saying, if you don't learn from history, you are doomed to repeat it.

Back in the 1930s, the budget director, the Treasury Secretary under FDR, Henry Morgenthau, actually said, "We're spending too much money." After 8 years of them spending money, they were still at double-digit unemployment. We were still in a Great Depression. In fact, some people said we were in a recession then, and the spending brought us into a Great Depression. And FDR's own Treasury Secretary in the 1930s said it's the spending that's giving us all this massive debt, and it's not doing anything to help our economy. It wasn't until World War II that we got back on track.

And so people are looking at that and saying, wait a minute; we sure don't want to make the mistakes of history's past if we learn how we are going to get ourselves out of this problem today.

If the gentleman has anything else to add—

Mr. CARTER. If the gentleman would yield for just a moment, because I actually happened to be thinking about that on my way up here this week.

We are experiencing that rare time that all Members of Congress who travel back and forth have to deal with called spring break. And I think that everybody that flew on an airplane coming up here knows that there were thousands and thousands and thousands of young people going all over the country and all over Mexico—and who knows where—on spring break. And it reminded me of something that

Will Rogers said during the Great Depression, he said, "America is a funny place. We may be the only country in the world that's driving to the poor house in an automobile." The whole point was, we need to remind ourselves, as we debate about this issue, that we are Americans who, if given the right tools, can incentivize our way out of any mess we get into.

We are still the most blessed Nation on the face of the Earth. We need to fix this banking crisis. And we don't need to fix it by indebting our grandchildren and our great grandchildren with special projects to meet campaign promises that were made. We need to concentrate on the issue, which is getting credit back in the market. And then that young man out in the hall and that young man in Killeen, Texas, can go borrow their loan from their bank and go invest it in the future for their children and grandchildren, and our country will continue to send all these beautiful children off on spring break.

I think we realize who we are. We can do anything we set our mind to if the government will just get out of the way and give us a chance to do it. I yield back.

Mr. SCALISE. Reclaiming my time. And I thank the gentleman from Texas for sharing that because that is the reason that we're here tonight because we know that there is a better way, there is a way out of this problem. And people across this country know. They know that we put a man on the moon because we, as a nation, set our mind to it and we said we are not going to accept failure. And so as people look at these proposals and they look at these record deficits, they know this is not the way out. They know that if spending would solve this problem, we would have the best economy in decades. And so, clearly, spending and taxing is not the answer.

But there are proven answers; and some of those answers are rooted in the very things we've been talking about, the alternative proposals we've been talking about, ways to help small businesses get back on their feet and hire more people. The people that employ 70 percent of our workforce today are being faced with \$640 billion in taxes by this budget, and obviously that has had a ripple effect. And we can unravel that by stopping this from happening.

And people across this country know that, too. That's why you are seeing these tea parties sprout up all across the country where people are saying, we are not going to take it anymore, and we want to stand up and let the government know—because government does answer to the people, especially here in this House, of all places, the People's House. So this is the voice of the people, and we're trying to express that voice. And another great voice is my friend from Texas as well, Mr. BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I really appreciate your energy and enthusiasm with

coming to the floor at this late hour of the night. You and I serve on the same committee, and our committee has been extremely active for the past several weeks. I think we spent 10 hours today talking about health care. We will spend many hours tomorrow talking about the carbon tax that is going to be enacted before Memorial Day. And then on Thursday we will have another lengthy hearing dealing with food safety; all terribly important issues to the American people. It's good to be up here doing the people's work. Unfortunately, on the floor of the House this week we're not really doing very much, but at least in our committee there is a great deal of work going on.

I will say that I am grateful that this week the President chose to stop talking down the economy and Wall Street, and we perhaps had a little bit of a respite from the inexorable downward spiral that we had seen from Inauguration Day forward. That has been a welcomed respite, I know, to my constituents back home.

I so appreciate the gentleman having the poster which shows the differences in the deficit by the time we lost control of the House with the 2006 election. We were told that we lost the election for the majority of the House in 2006 because of spending, because we had a deficit of \$160 billion at the end of that fiscal year. Mind you, that was a year that had seen Federal expenditures go up because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the continued fighting of two wars in the Middle East. We had a tsunami that we had to help with right after the 2004 election. There were some significant expenditures which were really once-in-a-lifetime expenditures, and our deficit was \$160 billion.

Now, 3 years later, we are looking at a projected deficit 10 times that much, 10 times \$160 billion. And we're told, don't worry, all is well, we can, indeed, spend our way out of this crisis. But I will tell you, I have not been in favor of any of these spending bills that have come through the House of Representatives in the past year. I think, going back to January of 2008, the so-called stimulus bill of \$170 billion at that time was an error; it was wrong, and it didn't deliver as intended.

□ 2245

The bill to bail out Fannie and Freddie in July that had to be redone in September didn't have the intended result, and then finally the big bailout that occurred right at the end of September, the first of October, in the election process clearly was a spending bill that we should not have undertaken.

Now, it's instructive to know if you're spending all this money and you're not bringing it in in tax revenue, we are intending or at least the signals are there that the Democrats are intending to raise taxes considerably on every American, as has already been alluded to, this carbon tax. Yes,

you won't pay more tax if you earn less than \$250,000 a year, unless you turn the lights on, in which case you're going to spend more in taxes, unless you drive a car, in which case you're going to spend more in taxes. So there will be massive tax increases visited upon the middle class of this country. But if you can't tax enough to cover this much spending, where do you get it? Well, you either print it or you borrow it, and right now we are in the process of borrowing this money.

Just a little less than a month ago, I spent an interesting afternoon down at a Federal agency called the Bureau of Public Debt. The Bureau of Public Debt that day was having its third of three auctions. Each auction was to be \$32 billion, so roughly \$100 billion which was going to be auctioned off that day. Each auction lasted 30 minutes. Each auction, fortunately, was fully subscribed, in fact, oversubscribed. So the notes that we had to sell as a country to keep our economy afloat did sell. The interest rate was not terrible. It was 1½ percent. At the same time, a month ago we were selling about \$160 billion in paper every week. A year before, it was a little less than \$100 billion, and it has obviously gone up every year, year over year, and will continue to do so.

What is the effect of putting \$2.1 trillion in new paper on the market in a very short period of time? Well, one of two things can happen: Your interest rates will go up or the paper won't sell. If the interest rates go up, that crowds out the private sector, which is also competing for that money to borrow to expand business and grow business. We're going to make it that much harder to add new jobs because we're going to add to the expense of a business growing or expanding. In addition, the tax burden that we are going to be adding in the energy sector alone will be a job-killing crush that most people at this point, quite frankly, haven't engaged upon. They do not comprehend the danger that is coming their way as we seek to recover our economy and grow new jobs and grow new sources of revenue.

One of the things that I have been so concerned about is here we are talking about a very enormous budget, an enormous amount of Federal spending. Have we really corrected the problems that were the underlying difficulties before? And I'm not certain we had. I came to Congress in 2003. I was elected in 2002 and was sworn in in 2003. We had just come through a very significant economic downturn. We had just come through some very significant corporate malfeasance with the implosion of Enron. We had new regulations enacted in Sarbanes-Oxley. And the feeling was that we had done all we needed to do and we had gotten it right. But the reality was there were still problems and we hadn't gotten to the bottom of it.

I urged the prior administration to proceed upon a course with engaging—

I don't like to use the term "Special Prosecutor." Perhaps we should call it a "Special Inspector General"—to look into the problems in the financial institution that caused us to be in this place. That did not happen.

Within the next 2 days, I am going to be introducing with another member on the Joint Economic Committee, another Member of the House, a bill to ask for a commission to study the problems that brought us to this point. I am not a fan of commissions. I think, in fact, most of the time they detract from congressional power and they are something that we should not do. But in this instance, the stakes are so high and the price we will pay if we get this wrong yet one more time will be so large that I, frankly, do not know if the country can sustain that. So I will be introducing legislation to ask for a commission to study not only what went wrong but who should be held accountable at this point. The same as we did with 9/11. The same as we did with the Iraq Study Group. I was not in favor of those commissions, but I think in this situation it does warrant that type of intervention because we cannot allow this to happen again.

And I don't know about you, Mr. SCALISE, but when I go down to Denton, Texas, when I go home to Fort Worth, Texas, or Lewisville, Texas, and I talk about these problems, everyone wants to know who is responsible and when are we going to see someone held accountable? And the fact that we see more people receive bonus money for driving their companies into the ground because, oh, I'm so sorry, it's contractual obligation; so we have no way around it. Nonsense. Ask any Delta pilot what happened to their contractual obligation about their pension. Ask any United pilot what happened to the contractual obligation with their pension, and they will tell you what those contractual obligations were worth. These contractual obligations to AIG border on criminal. There is no defense for our continuing down this road, and those need to be stopped.

I do hope that people will take a look at the concept of having a commission to study this problem because I do believe that the difficulties are so deep and so entrenched that if we do not correct them, if we do not get rid of the dry rot that's in the system, we will build an entirely new house of cards on an unstable foundation, and we know where that will lead.

But I do thank the gentleman for bringing this forward. Again, I know it's been a very long day at least for members of our committee. We will have a long day again tomorrow. We'll have a long day on Thursday. I wish our floor schedule mirrored that. Unfortunately, right now we don't seem to feel the same urgency on the floor of the House that the American people are feeling every single day as they watch the job losses mount in their communities and their area.

But I thank the gentleman very much for allowing me a chance to talk on this.

Mr. SCALISE. I want to thank my friend from Texas for sharing that with us. And really it is important that we unravel this mess, that we not only fix these problems but also that we hold those accountable who got us in this mess in the first place because in some cases some of those same people are still out there today using taxpayer money to enrich themselves when so many people across the country are struggling.

And when we go back to these charts and we look at these record deficits, we look at the fact that, yes, in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007, we had deficits and they were too high. But they were too high while they were less than \$200 billion. Today we're facing a deficit that's over \$1.7 trillion. An exorbitant amount of money. An amount of money that's going to saddle future generations.

And when we look historically at our national debt, we started with about \$10 trillion in national debt at the beginning of this year. We're already closing in on \$12 trillion in national debt, and this chart shows how it continues to rise in the years ahead with these record deficits and these taxes that are going to kill jobs in our country. So that's what we are trying to stop. We are not saying this is something that has already happened when we get beyond 2008. We're talking about things that are proposed that we can stop.

So I want to go back to my friend from Utah who's got an interesting insight as well to talk about what we can do to stop this and where this national debt leads us if we don't stop it from happening.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This chart should be concerning to every single American because what it shows is a doubling, a doubling, from \$10 trillion to over \$20 trillion of debt. Somebody has to pay that. It's going to be our kids and our grandkids and future generations. We continue to leave this country in a state of debt that is not sustainable.

I didn't create this mess, but I am here to help clean it up. I'm a freshman here. But I think we all have to take some responsibility and hold our government leaders accountable for the mess that we're getting in. I think they would appreciate it a lot more if there were more sacrifice. The President talked about going line by line, item by line. We were going to get rid of earmarks. We were going to get rid of this; we were going to get rid of that, go line by line. That hasn't happened. The very day after the President said those words, we were presented a bill that was \$410 billion and it had over 8,500 earmarks, 8,500-plus earmarks. The President had just asked for zero, for none. And yet it passed. It went to the President and he signed it. That just doesn't sound like the type of

responsibility and accountability that I would expect from my own kids, from the President of the United States. So there has to be this degree of responsibility.

And I also want to touch on the AIG thing because that's on the top of everybody's mind. Really what we have seen is a redistribution of wealth. We have seen the government misuse the role of government in reaching into people's pockets and then redistributing that, picking winners and losers like AIG and others, and saying it's better that we take that money out of the people's pockets and put it in their pockets. And then with this audacity, this greed, this unsustainable, unacceptable passion, they go out and misuse this money.

Don't you just wish these executives that were going to get these bonuses—why don't they just step up and do the right thing? I wish there would be a sense of pride within these people to say it's just not right for me to get a bonus. It's like when I was a little kid and I was playing soccer or baseball or something like that. I was taught that what you were supposed to do is if you stepped over the line, if you didn't actually make it, you're supposed to call it yourself instead of saying, well, that wasn't me, instead of getting tied up in some technicality that would allow them to do something that they really should not have been doing.

So what I would hope that people would do is to take this personal responsibility. The government's not. We are here to fight to make sure that it does become more accountable. But it's this underlying greed that, oh, my goodness, please, step up and do the right thing.

But that debt, that is something we can do something about. And that's why I think you see so many of us stepping up and saying the President's budget spends too much, it taxes too much, and it borrows too much.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank my friend from Utah again because I think what he touches on is this lost direction, this lost focus on the real problem that we are facing right now. And those of us that are here tonight are staying here as late as we can to try to get this administration back on track, focused on fixing the problems of this economy, on fixing the problems in our banking system.

Again, that bill is still out there, H.R. 7223, from the 110th Congress. We are still ready to present these ideas. These are good solutions to solve the problems our country faces today. But instead what do we get? Instead of that line-by-line scrutiny that we need, for the last 2 weeks we've had the White House, people in the White House, picking on media personalities, talking about what Rush Limbaugh is saying on the radio or what Jim Cramer is saying on CNBC. If that's the focus of this administration, it's no wonder why people are so mad out there in the rest of the country saying what about

the focus on the real problems that we are facing and the things that need to be done, the things the White House needs to be doing to address those problems, going line by line and cutting out the waste and the fraud and the corruption that exists in this government and in this budget instead of picking on media personalities or filing bills to tax small businesses or families on their energy bill?

Just last week we saw a bill filed called Card Check. A bill that literally would take away an employee's right to a secret ballot in a vote over whether or not to form a union. This is something for decades that's been in law. There's a process. If somebody wants to form a union, there is a process they go through, but it involves a secret ballot in the end to decide whether or not those employees actually want to form a union, and it's a protection for the employee so that they are freed from the intimidation and the coercion that has gone along in years past, in decades past, times in our history we sure don't want to repeat. That bill was filed last week to take away an employee's right to a secret ballot and forcing arbitration on companies.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has come out with reports that show that bill alone would cost our country 600,000 jobs in the first year, 600,000 jobs if that bill passed that would go overseas. And the President said he would sign that bill. So people look at this and they say we're facing real problems in our country, but we know, because we're America, because we are the greatest country in the world, we know we can address and fix these problems. But what they are very disappointed in is that they don't see solutions coming out of the leadership here in Congress and the White House. So that's why we are going to continue to talk about it and find solutions and find a better way.

□ 2300

TAKING US IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for the remaining time until midnight.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleagues on the great job that they have done this evening in presenting information about the budget, the deficit, the challenges that we are facing in this country, and I particularly want to agree with Congressman CARTER from Texas for the statement he made about the fact that we live in a wonderful country.

In fact, I tell my friends all the time, the first thing I do in the morning when I wake up is say thank you, Lord, for letting me live in this country. And the last thing I say, before I go to sleep

at night, is thank you, Lord, for letting me live in this country.

We are the most blessed people in the world, I believe that God has given us tremendous opportunities and responsibilities. And for those of us who have been here tonight and other nights and other days talking about what's happening in our country, we are really motivated by the fact that we know we live in the greatest country in the world, and we want it to remain that way.

And what we see happening in this country is people taking us in the wrong direction in order to maintain the greatness and the opportunities that this country has always had and always presented.

One of the things nobody said tonight is the fact that we, as Republicans, we, as conservatives, I would say—not all Republicans are conservatives, but those of us who are conservatives and who have been here talking about these issues are not alone. There are many Democrats who share our concerns too.

I want to just share some quotes from some of our colleagues who have expressed their own concern and their own apprehension about the proposals that have been made by this Congress and by this President.

Senator EVAN BAYH, Democrat of Indiana. "I do think that before we raise revenue we first should look to see if there are ways we can cut back on spending." As for the tax increases on high-income earners called for in Obama's plan, BAYH said, I do think that before we raise revenue, we first should look to see if there are ways we can cut back on spending. This was in *Politico* March 3, 2009, "Moderates Uneasy With Obama Plan."

Again, Republican conservatives are not the only ones that are worried about the direction that we are going. Senator BEN NELSON, Democrat of Nebraska, "I have major concerns about trying to raise taxes in the midst of a downturn of the economy."

Then he says, "On the one hand, you're trying to stimulate the economy. On the other hand, you're trying to keep money from going into taxpayers' pockets. It's very difficult to make that logic work." Again, *Politico*, March 3, 2009.

Representative SHELLEY BERKLEY, Democrat, Nevada.

"Representative Shelley Berkley, (D-Nev) called the proposal 'a nonstarter,' telling Geithner, 'I'd like to think that people give out of the goodness of their hearts, but that tax deduction helps to loosen up their heartstrings.' Outside the hearing, Berkeley said the proposed tax increase was 'the number one issue on the minds of her constituents over the weekend. Reminded that the provision is intended to raise hundreds of billions of dollars to finance an expansion of health insurance coverage, Obama's top domestic priority, she said, 'We can find another way.'"

We know that going in this direction, and these Democrats know, that this is

not the way that we should be going. We should not be taking more money from the American people. Cutting back spending would be the appropriate way to go.

I have a couple of other articles that I want to share, actually three articles that I want to share pieces of, because, again, they show, I think, the direction or the concern that people are having about these proposals that have been made in the last 50 days.

This article is from Stewart Taylor, Jr., it's in the *National Journal*, March 7, 2009. Stewart Taylor is known as a very strong liberal. He has been described in other terms even stronger than that, in terms of his liberalism, but I am just going to call him that tonight.

The title of this article is "Obama's Left Turn." It reads, "Having praised President Obama's job performance in two recent columns, it is with regret that I now worry that he may be deepening what looks more and more like a depression and may engineer so much spending, debt, and government control of the economy as to leave most Americans permanently less prosperous and less free."

"Other Obama-admiring centrists have expressed similar concerns. Like them, I would like to be proved wrong. After all, if this President fails, who will revive our economy? And when? And what kind of America will our children inherit?"

"But with the Nation already plunging deep into probably necessary debt to rescue the crippled financial system and stimulate the economy, Obama's proposals for many hundreds of billions in additional spending on universal health care, universal postsecondary education, a massive overhaul of the energy economy, and other liberal programs seem grandiose and unaffordable."

"With little in the way of offsetting savings likely to materialize, the Obama agenda would probably generate trillion-dollar deficits with no end in sight or send middle-class taxes soaring to record levels or both."

"All this from a man who told the Nation last week that he doesn't 'believe in bigger government,' and who promised tax cuts for 95 percent of Americans."

"The President's suggestions that all the necessary tax increases can be squeezed out of the richest 2 percent are deceptive and likely to stir class resentment. And his apparent cave-ins to liberal interest groups may change the country for the worse."

Then he goes on to say, "Such concerns may help explain why the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 17 percent from the morning of Inauguration Day (8,280) to its close on March 4 (6,876). The markets have also been deeply shaken by Obama's alarming failure to come up with a clear plan for fixing the crippled financial system—which has loomed since his election 4 months ago as by far his most urgent

challenge—or for working with foreign leaders to arrest the meltdown of the world economy."

"The house is burning down. It's no time to be watering the grass."

"This is not to deny that the liberal wish list in Obama is staggering \$3.6 trillion budget would be wonderful if we had limitless resources. But in the real world, it could put vast areas of the economy under permanent government mismanagement, kill millions of jobs, drive investors and employers overseas, and bankrupt the Nation."

Let me say again, these words are not being written or spoken by a conservative, they are being spoken by a person who calls himself a moderate but is described by most people as quite a liberal.

He goes on to say, "Meanwhile, liberal Democrats in Congress are racing to gratify their interest groups in a slew of ways likely to do much more harm than good: Pushing a union-backed 'card check' bill that would bypass secret-ballot elections on unionization and facilitate intimidation of reluctant workers; slipping into the stimulus package a formula to reimburse States that increase welfare dependency among single mothers and reduce their incentives to work; defunding a program that now pays for the parents of some 1,700 poor kids to choose private schools over crumbling D.C. public schools; fencing out would-be immigrants with much-needed skills."

"Not to mention the \$7.7 billion in an omnibus spending bill to pay for 9,000 earmarks of the kind that Obama campaigned against: \$1.7 million for research on pig odors in Iowa; \$1.7 million for a honey bee factory in Texas; \$819,000 for research on catfish genetics in Alabama; \$2 million to promote astronomy in Hawaii, \$650,000 to manage beavers in North Carolina and Mississippi; and many more."

The article goes on and on as I said, but I want to share, not all of it, but a couple of more pieces of it, because I don't want to spend all the time reading from this article.

I want to skip over to where he says, "Small wonder that liberal commentators who complained about Obama's initial stabs at bipartisanship are ecstatic about his budget. And small wonder that some centrists, who have had high hopes for Obama—including New York Times columnist, David Brooks, my colleague, Clive Crook, David Gergen and Christopher Buckley—are sounding alarms."

"In a March 3 column headed 'A Moderate Manifesto,' Brooks wrote, 'Those of us who consider ourselves moderates—moderate conservative, in my case—are forced to confront the reality that Barack Obama is not who we thought he was. His words are responsible; his character is inspiring. But his actions betray a transformational liberalism that should put every centrist on notice. The only thing more scary than Obama's experiment is the thought that it might fail.'"

Then I will share the end of the column, "I still hold out hope that Obama is not irrevocably 'casting his lot with collectivists and status,' as asserted by Peter Wehner, a former Bush aid and a leading conservative intellectual now with the Ethics and Public Policy Center."

"And I hope that the President ponders well Margaret Thatcher's wise warnings against some collectivist conceits, in a 1980s speech quoted by Wehner: 'The illusion that government can be a universal provider and yet society still stay free and prosperous. The illusion that every loss can be covered by a subsidy. The illusion that we can break the link between reward and effort, and still get the reward.'"

Again, my point in sharing this is that it isn't just conservatives who are concerned with the direction in which we are going in this society.

There is another article on an Internet Web site called GOPUSA that many people who use the Internet and use e-mail will be familiar with. The title of it is "George Orwell Would Be Impressed With Barack Obama," and it's written by Doug Patton and it's dated March 2, 2009.

"There he was, standing before a joint session of Congress, promising America the Moon 1 minute and sounding like a deficit hawk the next. President Barack Obama and his Democrat cohorts had just rammed through the biggest pile of pork in the history of the republic, and yet there he stood, before the whole Nation, telling us he was going to go through the budget 'line by line' finding ways to cut waste. In fact, he intended to 'slash the deficit' he 'inherited' by almost exactly the amount he and his Democrat Congress had just spent. What a coincidence."

The article goes on to say, "Obama is a combination of Ronald Reagan and Big Brother—by which I mean that he uses his considerable communications skills to sell the agenda of the huge, intrusive government, and that he does it in a 'Newspeak' that would impress George Orwell.

"Those who have read Orwell's prophetic little tomorrow, '1984,' will recall that 'Newspeak' was a language in which the line between contrary concepts was so blurred that words either had no meaning at all or could be used to create concepts that were contrary. When words no longer had meaning, the concept of truth was not far behind."

I want to say to those who are watching this tonight, if you have never read "1984," or if it's been a long time since you have read it, I will urge you to reread it now, because I think you will be startled by it and by the analogies that are being made by this author here tonight.

So what will Obama's America look like if he gets all that he wants? It won't happen overnight, but if he has his way, eventually it will be a very dreary place, much like the old Soviet

Union. Having followed the old Marxist axiom of making everyone equal, Obama will have brought about the same kind of quality instituted by the old Soviet Politburo. Gone will be the quality of opportunity we have enjoyed for more than 200 years, the right to experience life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In Obama's America, as in the failed Soviet State, a quality of outcome will be the preferred result. The idea is to make everyone equally prosperous.

This sounds good in theory until one considers that the only way governments have ever accomplished this is by making men and women equal in their poverty, misery and squalor.

□ 2315

And how does the President pay for it all? It doesn't seem to matter to most Americans. He talks about taxing the rich in order to pay for his schemes. Yet, if our government confiscated 100 percent of the income of everyone in this country making more than \$75,000 a year, he would barely have enough to cover this year's budget. And we don't even have universal health care yet.

Human beings are endowed with our rights by our Creator. Our Founders recognized that principle. This President and the majority in Congress believe our rights come from them. No one, until now, has been able to sell that idea to the American people. Barack Obama is doing his best to sell it to us now, and George Orwell would be very impressed.

The last article I want to share is an article from the Saturday-Sunday March 7-8, 2009, Wall Street Journal. I think another thing that hasn't been clear to the American people is that there are many things said by the President, by the leadership in this Congress, that if you look behind the curtain, as we do in the Wizard of Oz, you will see that what is being said and what is actually being done are not exactly the same thing.

More and more people are beginning to talk about this, but few have brought out really good examples of it as well as this article in the Wall Street Journal does.

The title of it, and it's an editorial, the title of it is: Obama Channels Cheney. "The Obama administration this week released its predecessors post-9/11 legal memoranda in the name of transparency, producing another round of feel-good Bush criticism.

"Anyone initiated in President Obama's actual executive power policies, however, should look at his position on warrantless wiretapping. Dick Cheney must be smiling.

"In a Federal suit, the Obama legal team is arguing that judges lack the authority to enforce their own rulings in classified matters of national security. The standoff concerns the Oregon chapter of the al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, a Saudi Arabian charity that was shut down in 2004 on evidence that it was financing al Qaeda. Al-

Haramain sued the Bush administration in 2004, claiming it had been illegally wiretapped.

"At the heart of the al-Haramain case is a classified document that it says proves that the alleged eavesdropping was not authorized under the Foreign Intelligence Service Act, or FISA.

That record was inadvertently disclosed after al-Haramain was designated as a terrorist organization; the Bush administration declared such documents state secrets after their existence became known.

"In July, the ninth circuit court of appeals upheld the President's right to do so, which should have ended the matter. But the San Francisco panel also returned the case to the presiding district court judge, Vaughn Walker, ordering him to decide if FISA preempts the state secrets privilege. If he does, al-Haramain would be allowed to use the document to establish the standing to litigate.

"The Obama Justice Department has adopted a legal stance identical to, if not more aggressive, than the Bush version. It argues that the court-forced disclosure of the surveillance programs would cause exceptional harm to national security by exposing intelligence sources and methods. Last Friday, the ninth circuit denied the latest emergency motion to dismiss, again kicking matters back to Judge Walker.

"In court documents filed hours later, Justice argues that the decision to release classified information is committed to the discretion of the executive branch. And is not subject to judicial review. Moreover, the court does not have independent power to order the government to grant counsel access to classified information when the executive branch has denied them such access.

"The brief continues that Federal judges are ill-equipped to second-guess the executive branch. That is about as pure an assertion of Presidential powers as they come, and we are beginning to wonder if the White House has put David Addington, Mr. Cheney's chief legal aid, on retainer.

"The practical effect is to prevent the courts from reviewing the legality of the warrantless wiretapping program that Mr. Obama repeatedly claimed to find so heinous, at least before taking office.

"Justice, by the way, is making the same state secrets argument in a separate lawsuit involving rendition and a Boeing subsidiary.

"Hide the children, but we agree with Mr. Obama that the President has inherent Article II constitutional powers that neither the judiciary nor statutes like FISA can impinge upon. The FISA appeals court said as much in a decision released in January, as did Attorney General Eric Holder during his confirmation hearings.

"It's reassuring to know the administration is refusing to compromise core executive branch prerogatives, especially on war powers. Then, again, we

are relearning that the “Imperial Presidency” is only imperial when the President is a Republican. Democrats who spent years denouncing George Bush for spying on Americans and illegal wiretaps are now conspicuously silent. Yet, these same liberals are going ballistic about the Bush-era legal memos issue this week.

“Cognitive dissonance is the polite explanation, and we wouldn’t be surprised if Mr. Holder released them precisely to distract liberal attention from the al-Haramain case.

“By the way, those Bush documents are Office of Legal Counsel memos, not political directives. They were written in the immediate aftermath of a major terrorist attack, when war seemed possible, and it would have been irresponsible not to explore the outer limits of war powers in a worst case scenario. Based on what we are learning so far about Mr. Obama’s policies, his administration would do the same.”

“I think, again, it’s important that even late at night, when maybe not too many people are paying attention, we reveal some of the cognitive dissonance that exists in this administration and in this Congress in ways that it discussed the previous administration, actions of the previous administration, and the things that it is doing now.

“We have to hope that once he became President, President Obama did learn that there are some things that the President must do that he may have railed against as a candidate, and hope that there’s a maturity there that will service us all well.”

I want to end my comments tonight on a totally different subject. Today, we passed a resolution celebrating Women’s History Month. I was not able to be here during that time. But I often point out the situation with women in the Congress and with the role that they have played in our country over the years, and celebrate that role, as I think it is important to our country.

Most people know very little about the history of women in our country; about the history of women and their voting rights. So I am going to share just a little bit with you on that issue. And I have learned some of these things since coming to Congress.

Some people may not know that in 1790, the New Jersey colony granted voting rights to all free inhabitants. But then, in 1807, they took back from New Jersey women the right to vote.

In 1869, the Wyoming territory gave women full suffrage; 1870, Utah. And it goes on and on with other States, other territories giving women the right to vote. In fact, the first woman who was elected to Congress was elected in 1916 before women in this country had the right to vote. She was from Montana—Jeannette Rankin.

She was elected there, and women got the right to vote in the West because women were valued much more in the West in the early days of our country, and that was one of the ways to attract women to come out West.

Let me give you a little history of the women in the Congress. Thirty-seven women have served in the United States Senate. Only 37. I don’t have the total number of the men who have served, but I have been told that approximately 12,000 men have served in the Congress. Only 37 women in the Senate. Seventeen are currently serving.

Two hundred twenty-nine women have served in the U.S. House of Representatives. Seventy-four of them are currently serving. That totals 266 women that have ever served in the United States Congress; 91 currently serving. So 12,000 men, 266 women.

I am the fourth woman from the State of North Carolina. The first woman was elected in a special election in 1946. She served 1946 and 1947 and didn’t run in the general election for re-election. Eva Clayton from the first district was the first woman to serve. She was elected in a special election. SUE MYRICK, who’s currently serving, was the second woman to be elected. North Carolina has had two women Senators; Elizabeth Dole, who served from 2003 to 2008, and KAY HAGAN, who is currently serving.

I think most of us wish we would have more women serving in the Congress on both sides of the aisle because we believe that it adds to the Congress in terms of the perspectives that we bring, is as it adds to the Congress that we have men serving who have been in many, many different professions and had many, many different experiences.

I see that my colleague from Texas has joined me. Before I yield back my time, I would like to see if he has some comments that he would like to make. This is Mr. GOHMERT from the great State of Texas. I would remind him that he and I are the only two things standing in the way of adjournment tonight.

Mr. GOHMERT. I do thank my dear friend, Ms. FOXX, for the things that she’s pointed out tonight, Mr. Speaker, and also for the good that she’s done. I hadn’t realized. I guess we don’t notice gender around this body, but apparently one of the few women. I didn’t realize there had been that few. But what a powerful contribution, Mr. Speaker, that Ms. FOXX has made, and is making. It makes me very proud to be serving with her, as we came in together.

But there is something that we have discussed and have in common, and that is a concern about the morality of this Nation. Chuck Coulson talked about in a recent Bible study group we had, quoted Michael Novak, using the metaphor of the three-legged stool on which a government and a country like ours is seated.

Now many have used the metaphor of the three-legged stool, but he was pointing out that really the three legs are composed of morality, economic freedom, and political freedom, and that you need all three legs.

What we have seen in this country is a breakdown of the morality leg. As we

look at the struggles in our economy, it seems that there has been a real problem with this nagging issue of greed and jealousy and envy, covetousness. People see what others want and they want that and they want more.

□ 2330

And as we have seen greed take over good sense, then it affects the economic freedom. And as that has impacted the economy and the economy has gotten in trouble, what we see throughout history is that when people have a choice between order and freedom, they will give up freedom just to have order, and that it puts our entire political freedom at risk when we have had a breakdown in morality affecting the economy, and then the third leg goes, our political freedom.

I have been visiting with a group tonight, and I know the rules of the House are that we don’t call attention to anyone in the gallery so I will not do that. But I have been visiting tonight with friends from Lufkin, Texas, Mayor Gordon and his wife, and Paul Parker and his wife and their grandson, Josh. They understand this issue of morality. They understand that a country cannot be perpetuated where you lose that leg of the three-legged stool.

We even see it in Washington, where people get envious: Well, somebody got something in their district, I want something in mine. And if they put what they want or their district’s wants over the needs of the Nation, then we come in here and we pass bills that have 9,000 earmarks in them that don’t help with the stimulus, they don’t help the country go in the right direction. And it is really kind of a moral leg that is affected there as well, which affects the economy because it doesn’t stimulate the economy, which can throw the economy into chaos, at which time people are willing to give up political freedom in order to have the security of some order in this Nation.

I have been inspired by some of the words of our President, President Obama. But as we have found, leadership is not found in the lines on a teleprompter; leadership is something you have got to do, how you live. And George Washington, we know, struggling as we was to win freedom, he knew that his life had to be transparent, that he had to be humble, and he had to be a man of complete honesty; otherwise, it wouldn’t survive. And his quote was: Men unused to restraint must be led; they will not be driven. And that is what we need more of, not just pretty words that are read from a teleprompter. We need leadership. We need people not to say we are not going to allow greed to get \$165 million worth of bonuses after driving a country into the dirt. Not at all. No, we need leadership that doesn’t just say these things. They follow through, and make sure he appoints honorable men, honorable people. And by that I

mean generically men and women, because of the contribution.

We were just down to Statuary Hall, and I was pointing out the first woman to address a group in Congress was a Christian evangelist, I think it was before 1820, that delivered the Sunday nondenominational Christian sermon down in Statuary Hall back when it was the House of Representatives. But men and women have inspired this place, but they don't inspire anyone unless their life is transparent enough so that people know that they mean what they say.

So as we continue to have these issues arise of the lack of morality; Ms. Coleson once said: You can't have the morality of Woodstock and not have tragedies in this country. If you have the morality of, "If it feels good, do it," then you are going to have some catastrophes, because some people will want to see how it feels to do different catastrophic, greedy, terrible things. So we have got to get back to our moral underpinnings and moral anchoring so that we can move forward. But we need leadership from the White House to the Senate to this House to be in order so that they can lead by example, and not put earmarks in that may help some people but not help the economy and not help the Nation move forward and not help the generations to come.

Ms. FOXX has heard me say, Mr. Speaker, before. As a judge, I know if a parent were to have come before me and that parent had been to the bank and said, I can't control my spending, I just can't stop spending, so please make me a loan; and my children and my grandchildren, maybe my great grandchildren who aren't even born, will pay it all back some day because I can't and I can't control my spending. Well, that parent wouldn't get to keep the kids much longer, and especially if the kids had kids. That raises issues.

But in any event, we have got to get back to morality of good leaders here. We don't spend our children's money, we don't spend our grandchildren's money and our great grandchildren's money. That is irresponsible. And if we are going to do the business of this Nation with which we have been trusted, we have got to just reestablish the moral leg, the humility, the strength of character that Washington displayed, and that I have seen in my friend, Ms. FOXX. I appreciate your yielding and I appreciate the chance to speak here.

I have seen that same moral strength in a group that is here at the Capitol tonight from Murray State University, a group of Christians that are here.

So thank you for yielding and allowing me to speak tonight. And thank you for taking this time.

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my colleague from Texas for coming in tonight and sharing this time with me and ending the evening on the appropriate note.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HALL of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 24.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 24.

Mr. ROONEY, for 5 minutes, March 18.

Mrs. CAPITO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LATOURETTE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, March 18.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KRATOVIL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STEARNS, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1127. An act to extend certain immigration programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

893. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Olives

Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-08-0105; FV09-932-1IFR] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

894. A letter from the Acting Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-08-0107; FV09-925-2IFR] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

895. A letter from the Acting Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2008-2009 Crop Year for Tart Cherries [Doc. No. AMS-FV-08-0089; FV09-930-1IFR] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

896. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Changes in Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches [Doc. No. AMS-FV-08-0108; FV09-916/917-1 IFR] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

897. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Relaxation of Handling and Import Regulations [Docket No.: AMS-FV-08-0036; FV08-946-1 FIR] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

898. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops-Import Regulations; Proposed Revision to Reporting Requirements [Docket No.: AMS-FV-07-0110; FV07-944/980/999-1 FR] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

899. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Farm Program Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility for 2009 and Subsequent Crop, Program, or Fiscal Years (RIN: 0560-AH85) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

900. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James N. Soligan, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

901. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal and Modification of Certain Entries from the Entity List; Person Removed Based on Removal Request and Clarification of Certain Entries [Docket No.: 0812241647-9151-01] (RIN: 0694-AE51) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

902. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting correspondence from Speaker Luka Bebic of the Croatian Parliament; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

903. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting

the Office's final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Acquisition Regulation: Miscellaneous Clarifications and Corrections (RIN: 3206-AL66) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

904. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Landing Craft, Air-Cushioned (LCAC), (LC-42), Elliott Bay, Seattle, Washington [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0418] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

905. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; USS RUSHMORE (LSD-47), Elliott Bay, Seattle, Washington [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0417] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

906. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's report entitled, "Women, Minorities, and Persons With Disabilities in Science and Engineering: 2009," pursuant to Public Law 96-516; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

907. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Research Credit Claims Audit Techniques Guide: Credit for Increasing Research Activities IRC Section 41 — Revised Exhibit C [LMSB-4-0209-008] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

908. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2009-20] received March 10, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

909. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's seventh quarterly report to Congress on the Status of Significant Unresolved Issues with the Department of Energy's Design and Construction Projects; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations.

910. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting the Office's biennial report on the applicability to the legislative branch of federal law relating to terms and conditions of employment and access to public services and accommodations, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1302, section 102(b); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and Labor.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. MATSUI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 250. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws (Rept. 111-39). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. SESTAK):

H.R. 1541. A bill to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business. considered and passed. considered and passed.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. SPACE):

H.R. 1542. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a 100 percent tax on bonuses paid by businesses that receive TARP assistance and are majority owned by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 1543. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on bonuses received from companies receiving TARP funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DRIEHAUS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan):

H.R. 1544. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOCCIERI (for himself and Mr. LEE of New York):

H.R. 1545. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the credit for research activities permanent and to provide an increase in such credit for taxpayers whose gross receipts are predominantly from domestic production activities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

H.R. 1546. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Committee on Care of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BERKLEY (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. PAUL, Mr. AKIN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. OLVER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. DICKS, Mr. HOLT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SIRES, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. HINCHEY):

H.R. 1547. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. HILL, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BARROW, Mr. PITTS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. DREIER, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HERGER, Mr. DENT, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms.

BEAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1548. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pathway for the licensure of biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. TIERNNEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FARR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. STARK, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. KILROY):

H.R. 1549. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SUTTON (for herself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan):

H.R. 1550. A bill to accelerate motor fuel savings nationwide and provide incentives to registered owners of high polluting automobiles to replace such automobiles with new fuel efficient and less polluting automobiles or public transportation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 1551. A bill to provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KRATOVIL (for himself and Mr. LEE of New York):

H.R. 1552. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount allowed as a deduction for start-up expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ACKERMAN:

H.R. 1553. A bill to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act to provide equitable remedies to mutual savings institutions to defend against individuals acting as a de facto corporation attempting to implement a hostile

takeover of the institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOREN:

H.R. 1554. A bill to take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida:

H.R. 1555. A bill to debar or suspend contractors from Federal contracting for unlawful employment of aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 1556. A bill to authorize appropriations for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission through fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COOPER (for himself, Mr.

WOLF, Mr. BOYD, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SHULER, Ms. BEAN, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HILL, Mr. KIND, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. JONES, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HELLER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. CARTER, Mr. COLE, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. KIRK):

H.R. 1557. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MASSA, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 1558. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit preexisting condition exclusions in group health plans and health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida:

H.R. 1559. A bill to provide for the resolution of several land ownership and related issues with respect to parcels of land located within the Everglades National Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 1560. A bill to make the moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce permanent; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 1561. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a standard deduction for the business use of a home; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN:

H.R. 1562. A bill to provide compensation to the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes of South Dakota for damage to tribal land caused by Pick-Sloan projects along the Missouri River; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 1563. A bill to authorize the conveyance of a portion of the campus of the Illiana Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs to Danville Area Community College of Vermilion County, Illinois; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1564. A bill to designate the headquarters building of the Embassy of the United States in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as the "Mickey Leland United States Embassy Building"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1565. A bill to provide for the issuance of a semipostal in order to afford a convenient means by which members of the public may contribute towards the acquisition of works of art to honor female pioneers in Government service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KLINE of Minnesota (for himself and Mrs. BACHMANN):

H.R. 1566. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to transfer individuals detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to facilities in Minnesota or to house such individuals at such facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida:

H.R. 1567. A bill to amend the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 1568. A bill to reauthorize the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, to reauthorize and rename the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP) as the KIDS Act, to provide for funding parity between COPS and the KIDS Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ORTIZ, Ms. FUDGE, Ms.

LEE of California, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1569. A bill to improve the calculation of, the reporting of, and the accountability for, secondary school graduation rates; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SPACE (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 1570. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to coordinate Federal congenital heart disease research efforts and to improve public education and awareness of congenital heart disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER (for herself and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan):

H.R. 1571. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit certain revenues of private providers of public transportation by vanpool received from providing public transportation to be used for the purpose of acquiring rolling stock, and to permit certain expenditures of private vanpool contractors to be credited toward the local matching share of the costs of public transportation projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 1572. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a 90 percent tax on bonuses paid by business that receive TARP assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 1573. A bill to establish the National Home Energy Savings Revolving Fund within the Department of Energy to provide amounts to units of general local government to make loans to homeowners for qualified home energy audits and certified energy savings improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VISCLOSKEY (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana):

H.R. 1574. A bill to amend the Act titled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes" to allow the acquisition of lands by payment of delinquent taxes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 1575. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to limit or recover excessive compensation paid or payable by entities that have received Federal financial assistance on or after September 1, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLAY:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued to honor America's barbers; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H. Res. 249. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Veterans Affairs should take full responsibility for financing the health care benefits earned by veterans with service-connected disabilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LATOURETTE (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PETRI, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DENT, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr.

PLATTS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DREIER, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. EHLERS):

H. Res. 251. A resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in his possession relating to specific communications with American International Group, Inc. (AIG); to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WU, Mr. SIREN, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BACA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SPACE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. LANCE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. STARK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. DREIER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. TIERNEY):

H. Res. 252. A resolution calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BOREN:

H. Res. 253. A resolution honoring Ms. Lois Burton for setting an example for all women through her influence and dedication to the Choctaw Nation and to improved health care and education in honor of Women's History Month; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. KILROY, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina):

H. Res. 254. A resolution recognizing the designation of March 2009 as Irish American Heritage Month and honoring the significance of Irish Americans in the history and progress of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself and Ms. GRANGER):

H. Res. 255. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of September as "National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to educate the public about atrial fibrillation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WAMP (for himself and Mr. EDWARDS of Texas):

H. Res. 256. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

10. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of Maine, relative to H.P. 273, MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE FULL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT; to the Committee on Agriculture.

11. Also, a memorial of the Senate of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 6 memorializing the Congress of the United States to tie the federal economic stimulus package distribution to the unemployment rate in each state and to provide that those states with the highest unemployment rates receive a higher percentage of federal funds; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

12. Also, a memorial of the Senate of Kentucky, relative to Senate Resolution No. 76, to enact a federal Menu Education and Labeling (Meal) Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

13. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of Colorado, relative to House Joint Resolution 09-1006 concerning the U.S.S. Pueblo; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. RANGEL introduced A bill (H.R. 1576) for the relief of Daniel Wachira; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 17: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 22: Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 24: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. KIND, Mr. PITTS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 31: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 55: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 155: Mr. SCHAUER.
H.R. 174: Ms. MARKEY of Colorado.
H.R. 179: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 186: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 211: Mr. MATHESON and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 235: Mr. MASSA, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana.

H.R. 270: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 388: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 392: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 463: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 475: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 509: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 510: Mr. PAUL, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 560: Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 564: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 579: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 622: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.

H.R. 658: Mr. BOCCIERI and Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 666: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. BACA.

H.R. 667: Mrs. EMERSON and Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 676: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 699: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 734: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WU, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 745: Mr. WOLF, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 775: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MICA, and Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 795: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 804: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 816: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H.R. 859: Mrs. HALVORSON and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 864: Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 885: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 906: Mr. POLIS of Colorado.

H.R. 929: Mr. TEAGUE.

H.R. 948: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 968: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 997: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1018: Ms. BORDALLO and Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 1029: Mr. MCMAHON and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana.

H.R. 1030: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.

H.R. 1059: Mr. WAMP, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 1064: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1066: Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1067: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina and Mr. STUPAK.

H.R. 1084: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 1179: Mr. SIREN, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 1189: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 1205: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. DREIER, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1207: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. CASTLE.

H.R. 1209: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1210: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1254: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1256: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1264: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 1283: Mr. ARCURI, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1289: Mr. SIREN, Ms. KILROY, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 1303: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H.R. 1308: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 1313: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1326: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER of New York, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1332: Mr. ADLER of New Jersey.

H.R. 1339: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN.

H.R. 1346: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. SCHAUER.

H.R. 1349: Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana.

H.R. 1360: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STARK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KILROY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 1361: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1362: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 1405: Mr. SIRES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1409: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1414: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1429: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1460: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1466: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1472: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 1479: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1499: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1509: Mr. PAUL and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1511: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1518: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr.

ARCURI, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HILL, Mr. CLEAV-ER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HARE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mrs. DAHLKEMPER.

H.J. Res. 39: Ms. TITUS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CARTER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. SPACE, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Con. Res. 18: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H. Con. Res. 55: Mr. FARR, Mr. JONES, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 60: Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. BOREN.

H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 20: Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 69: Mr. FARR.

H. Res. 101: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. ARCURI.

H. Res. 130: Ms. FUDGE.

H. Res. 156: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 171: Mr. SIRES, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H. Res. 185: Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. SCHOCK, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 211: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. POE of Texas.

H. Res. 214: Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCCARTHY of

California, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BONNER, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MCMAHON, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LATTI, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. KISSELL, and Ms. MARKEY of Colorado.

H. Res. 215: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WU, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H. Res. 223: Mr. POSEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. COBLE.

H. Res. 234: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. BEAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. CARNEY.

H. Res. 244: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. KING of New York.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

18. The SPEAKER presented a petition for the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 12 of 2009—Expressing Support for Israel, Recognizing Israel's Right To Defend Itself Against Attacks From Gaza, And Supporting The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.